

REPORT



ON THE

STATE OF THE POLICE

IN THE

LOWER PROVINCES,

FOR THE

YEAR 1848.

Calcutta: .

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To F. J. HALLIDAY, ESQUIRE,

*Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,
Judicial Department.*

Sir,

In pursuance of the instructions contained in Mr. Secretary Mangles' letter dated the 22d of August last, desiring us to form ourselves into a Committee for the purpose of digesting certain returns called for with a view to the improvement of the Mofussil Police, and of drawing up a plan for the more efficient organization of that body, we have now the honor to submit the result of our enquiries, and to report the alterations which appear to us to be required in the existing system in order to effect that improvement, and place the Police on a footing calculated to realize in as great a degree as possible, the object for which it is intended.

2. After duly considering the several returns above referred to, we thought it would be injudicious to confine ourselves entirely to those communications consisting as they did solely of carefully prepared Reports from public Officers holding Civil situations, and that it would be advisable to seek for information on a more enlarged scale, especially from private individuals, Native as well as European, who had resided, or were still residing, in the interior, and whose local knowledge and experience in different parts of the country qualified them for giving the most valuable testimony. We accordingly solicited the attendance of such gentlemen as happened to be within reach, whom we thought might answer the purpose, and their examinations are herewith submitted for the information of Government.

3. We deem it necessary to premise, that in the recommendations we are about to submit, we shall keep, as far as practicable, steadily in view the point to which our attention was directed in Mr. Secretary Mangles' letter of the 22d August last, namely, "that the execution of any substantial and early improvement in the existing system must be much impeded, if the plan submitted by the Committee should involve any great increase of expenditure," but we hope it will at the same time be borne in mind, that as the inefficiency of that system is in a great measure attributable to the inadequate scale on which it has hitherto been carried on, no improvement without considerable expense will be practicable; of which indeed the Honble the Court of Directors themselves appear to be fully aware, as in the 18th paragraph of their Dispatch, dated the 24th January 1833, speaking of the improvement called for in the Police, they desire, that no pecuniary considerations should be allowed to stand in the way of a change so urgently required.

The enclosed is submitted on all hands, but it must come from the Honble the Court of Directors, and the Government connected

with its operation, than from any increased disposition to crime on the part of the community at large. So far indeed from its appearing that the people are more prone than formerly to the commission of violence and outrage, we are inclined to think, from what has come before us, that crimes of a heinous nature, dacoity or gang-robbery for instance, are not only less frequent, but that they are not attended with the circumstances of atrocity which they used to be, and that prevented, as the people have been, from taking the law into their own hands in matters of private dispute, and being no longer exposed to open plunder and depredation, their character, in a municipal point of view, has been materially improved. But in proportion as they have learnt to value the blessings of peace, and to look upon what belongs to them as their own, they are less disposed to submit to those evils, of which perhaps they would not have thought much under a more unsettled rule, and therefore the more important it is for the Government to check, even though it may be attended with some expense, the abuses of which it is itself the cause, and remove thereby the general discontent unavoidably created by them.

5. The defects in question pervade every grade of the Establishment. The outline of the system is perhaps as good, as with the materials at hand to work with, could have been devised, but for want of proper organization it does not work as it ought to do. The Magistrates are overwhelmed. The Darogahs and their subordinate Officers are corrupt—the village watchmen are poor, degraded, and often worse than useless, and the community at large, oppressed and inconvenienced in various ways, are not only disinclined to afford aid to the Police, but in most cases, had rather submit quietly to be robbed, than apply to the Police Officers for assistance to apprehend the thieves, or to recover the stolen property

6. From these defects the system has never been entirely free, but up to the change which took place in the year 1829, they were less perceptible. The policy that rendered the office of Magistrate the principal channel to distinction and emolument, infused into the Department of Police a degree of vigour and activity which kept the defects in question in a great measure out of sight, and created an erroneous belief that the system worked well, and that the community at large were effectually protected. The affairs of this Department were accordingly considered henceforward a matter of secondary consideration. The Superintendents of Police were dispensed with. The office of Magistrate was united with that of Collector—and the encouragement which had excited so much zeal and activity in aid of the Police, was transferred to the Revenue Department, under the expectation, as it would seem, that the same degree of superintendence and controul were no longer necessary.

7. The defects of the arrangement adopted in substitution of the Superintendents of Police are pointed out by the late Mr C. R. Barwell in his note of the 16th October 1836—"In the actual mode of providing for the superintendence of the system of Police, it is scarcely possible to obviate the evils necessarily resulting from a want of uniformity in its direction and management. Without such uniformity of controul, no real improvement can be effected, nor can the

“ information which is indispensable to its accomplishment, be supplied to Govern-
 “ ment in that authentic shape, which precludes all need for further enquiry, and
 “ justifies an immediate decision on the topic submitted for consideration and or-
 “ ders Each Commissioner now treats the general question of Police in his own
 “ way In some instances this way is not that of improvement, and, occasionally
 “ it may be apprehended, that a retrograde action is experienced, either from inca-
 “ pacity or inattention. In such jurisdictions, it will follow, that the Magistrates
 “ find their exertions unappreciated, and, of course, lose all hope of any effort
 “ they may make, being brought favourably to the notice of Government. The
 “ consequence is, that, with the exception of those superior minds, who work to
 “ satisfy their own sense of duty towards the inhabitants of their jurisdiction, these
 “ Officers become heedless and supine, and the whole of the subordinate Natives
 “ follow their example.”*

* Vide Note by Mr
 Hutchinson at the end
 of the Report

8. To the union of the office of Magistrate and Collector injurious effects are generally attributed The union which formerly subsisted between the offices of Judge and Magistrate was not so prejudicial, because Police was the primary object with the Judge and Magistrate, but it has been secondary with the Magistrate and Collector Civil business it has been observed could wait, but the Government cannot wait for its Revenue In neither case however is such a union desirable If there be more business upon the whole than one man can perform, a part must be neglected, and it has happened in both instances, and must invariably be the case, that the neglected portion is that, in which the Government for the time being happens to take the least interest

9 Mr W A Pringle in his letter of the 7th February 1837, has remarked upon this point as follows—“ While the Revenue Department is, as it ought to be, considered of such primary importance, it is in vain to expect that Police will be any thing but a secondary consideration with a Collector and Magistrate In some Districts it is made over entirely to the Deputy and Joint Magistrate, and where this is the case I have generally observed that the duty has been much better done, but many are afraid to give over the entire management where all the responsibility continues with themselves, and a Joint Magistrate, that is really active and zealous, would much prefer incurring the responsibility, while he also gets the credit due to his own exertions to seeing it bestowed to his superior in office I would still have the Revenue considered as the primary object, and that the Collector should be the senior, and better paid Officer, but I would have the office of Magistrate quite distinct, and in no respect subordinate to him The office of Magistrate is one in which zeal and activity, if at all tempered with discretion, and placed under sufficient local supervision and controul, are the chief requisites, and I should never be afraid of a hasty young man doing much mischief, where appeals can be preferred and readily disposed of on the spot by a Session Judge, who of course must have had sufficient experience himself as a Magistrate. An active young Officer would then take a pride, in having his District in good order, and would look to this for his own advancement in the service, and all the conjoined influence of the Collector, and his

“ greater experience, (even where Magisterial experience is possessed by him) can never compensate for the efficiency produced by an advantageous division of labor, of responsibility, and of hopes of advancement, all of which would result from the offices being distinct and independent of one another. I have seen instances too, but very rarely, in which it is better that a Collector should not only have no Magisterial authority himself, but that there should be another Officer vested with it in the District.”

10 In most of the above remarks, we generally concur, and we doubt much if in the settled Provinces, where the Revenue is realized by the process of sale, and the Collectors have little communication with the agricultural community but such as must unavoidably render them unpopular, any advantage is derived by the Police from the conjoined influence of the Collector, or if the greater experience available for the Magistracy by means of that conjunction, is not more than counterbalanced by the inconveniences resulting from it. The demands of the Revenue Department upon the time and energies of the Collector-Magistrate are so heavy, that he is obliged, with all the responsibility upon himself, to transfer the greater part of the duty to his Deputy, who, as observed by Mr. Pringle, works under the disadvantage of having all the labor without any of the credit, and is at the same time liable to the most unpleasant interference. Moreover, a Deputy is not always afforded, and in such cases the whole of the double duty falls upon one and the same individual, who is likewise in some Districts Collector of Customs, Superintendent of Salt Chowkies, Deputy Opium Agent, and has charge of the Abkarree and Stamp Departments *

* Vide question and answer No. 266 of the evidence taken before the Police Committee

11 It has been urged, that the question is not whether the Magistracy of a District would be more ably administered by the individual selected for that office discharging no other duties, but whether instead of employing one Commissioned Officer as Magistrate, and another as Collector, the efficiency of both offices is not better secured by committing the controul of them to the more experienced functionary, and employing the second subordinate to him, than by entrusting to each a distinct Department, and whether the great practical convenience of having at all times one Officer available for duty in the interior without interrupting the usual course of business at the Sudder Station, does not more than counterbalance all the theoretical evils said to attend the junction of the offices of Magistrate and that of Collector

12 The majority of the Committee, in concurrence with almost the whole of the gentlemen, both in and out of the service, who have been asked their opinions on the subject, think decidedly, that the efficiency of both Departments would be much better secured, generally speaking, by entrusting the superintendence of each to a distinct functionary. We are of opinion that their attention would be less distracted by conflicting duties, that each would then be individually responsible for his own Department, and enjoy the whole credit of his own exertions. And it will not be the least of the advantages resulting from such an arrangement, that no idle or incompetent person could then be long tolerated in either situation.

13. We would not recommend for the former office young and inexperienced men just out of College. We are of opinion that even the most promising require to be taught before they can be entrusted with the exercise of power. But we think that any man of ordinary capacity and perseverance, would sufficiently qualify himself, under an intelligent superior, in a short time for the charge of a District, especially as the Sessions Judge, with full controuling powers, is always on the spot to supervise and regulate his proceedings.

14. We would further recommend, as applicable to all European public Officers, whether Revenue or Judicial, but in a special degree to Magistrates, that the individual appointed to that office, if fit for his situation, should be changed as seldom as possible. Mr Lang in his report dated the 28th October 1836, observes, "The removal of public Officers from one station to another so continually as is now the custom, is, I conceive, one of the greatest drawbacks to the efficiency of the Police. I am aware that some good is the consequence of persons in charge of offices being occasionally changed. A check no doubt is thus kept over the Native Amil, which would not exist were the same Officer to remain in the same situation for a long series of years—but changes, constant as they are at present, must prove most prejudicial. I should think, generally speaking, an Officer seldom remains more than a year or two at the same station in the lower grades of the service and no sooner has he been made acquainted with the localities of the District, the people over whom he has been placed, his Amil, and the records and business of his office, and thereby prepared himself for the efficient discharge of his duties, than he is removed from his situation and ordered off to some other Zillah, to go over the same work again, leaving his successor to employ himself till he is also removed, in the same preparatory duties. Speaking from my own experience, I beg to state that I have now been just eight years out of College, during which time I have been employed in six different Zillahs, in none of which have I remained for two whole years, and had I not been about to proceed to Europe on furlough in the coming cold season, I should in all probability have ere this been en route to a seventh District, having been in charge of this one for exactly one year."

15. Mr Samuells also in his Report of the 10th December 1836, observes— "The perpetual change of Officers which occurs in the different Magistracies under the Bengal Presidency, is also another great obstacle to the formation of a good system of Police. The nature of our service will not, I am aware, admit of the continued residence of an Officer in one District, throughout the whole of his career, but some mode might I should think be devised for rendering removals less frequent. An Officer of very inferior talents, if allowed to remain for a period of ten years in one District, would, I am convinced, do more good than a dozen of the best Magistrates in India could effect, when following each other in rapid succession. The difference to the people is precisely that between the blessing of a settled rule, and the curse of an unsettled Government."

16. It would be needless however to multiply quotations, as the mischievous consequences of such changes on the efficiency of the Police and the administration

of criminal justice, is admitted by every body. The difficulty appears to consist in devising a remedy for this evil, the precarious tenure by which the health of European Officers is held in India, and the necessity of rewarding merit by promotion to superior office, being paramount to all other considerations.

17 One cause of the inefficiency of the Police is the little intercourse which exists between the European and Native community, and this evil is greatly increased by the frequent changes above alluded to so much to be lamented, preventing as they do, generally speaking, a public Officer from feeling more than a transitory interest in the welfare of the natives placed under his superintendence. It prevents the community also from obtaining a knowledge of his character, it robs them of the good which he would have the opportunity of doing by remaining longer amongst them, and deprives the Government of all the credit which it might obtain by the continued application in the same sphere of honest and persevering exertions to promote the public welfare.

18 The next defect we have to refer to as exercising a very baneful influence on the efficiency of the Police, and the comfort of the inhabitants, is the great extent of country over which the jurisdiction of each Magistrate extends. This not only places it entirely out of his power, except very rarely, to hold any personal communication with the people under his charge, at their own homes, or to become acquainted with the remoter localities of his District, but it also prevents him from exercising any effectual controul over the conduct of the Thannadars, his only instruments for preserving peace and good order, who are in consequence notoriously corrupt, and often the oppressors of all around them. It is also in a great measure the source of that dislike, so generally entertained, to having any thing to do with Police matter, inasmuch, as the intolerable inconvenience to which prosecutors, witnesses, and defendants, at a distance are exposed, from the necessity in every case of attending the Magistrate's Cutchery, is owing to that cause. On the latter point Mr Ross observes in his Minute of the 22nd May 1832—"Not only are there no inducements held out to the people to give their aid in support of the Police, but, on the contrary, our Regulations have the effect of making them endeavour to conceal offenders. This is really the effect of the existing provisions for administering criminal justice, which effect they produce by subjecting the people to the most serious hardships whenever offenders happen to be apprehended. The hardships alluded to are much more severely felt than would seem to be supposed, and their effect is not only to prevent the establishment of a good Police, but to create dislike to Government; I therefore deem it my duty, although I am aware they have been frequently represented, to bring them again to the notice of the Nizamut Adawlut, and to urge the expediency of relieving the people from them. Under the existing Regulations, in all Criminal prosecutions, the prosecutor and witnesses, must give their evidence in the Magistrate's Cutchery. In the most trivial case they are compelled to undergo the fatigue of a journey to the station of the Magistrate, in many cases exceeding a distance of 100 miles, to submit to the harassment of a daily attendance in the Magistrate's Court, for weeks together, and to suffer all the inconveniences and often distress occasioned by a long absence from their

“ homes, and interruptions to their occupations. These are very serious grievances, and should not be imposed without great necessity. They are at present however, as I have already said, imposed upon the most trivial occasions, and all classes are constantly liable to be subjected to them. They are so severely felt, that they are seldom voluntarily submitted to, it being in almost every case found necessary, in order to procure the attendance of those who are required to appear as prosecutors and witnesses, to seize and send them to the Magistrate's station, under charge of Burkundazes, and while there to keep them under restraint, and sometimes in confinement on the pretext of accommodating them with lodgings.”

19 The remedy usually proposed for these evils is to reduce the size of the Districts, and increase the number of separate jurisdictions, so that each should be of an extent that might be more effectually managed by a single Magistrate. But such a measure we are of opinion would not be sufficient to remedy the evils complained of. It is not so much the size of the Districts, as the want of a more close and direct authority over the Thannadars, which would be a real substitute for that of the Magistrate on the one hand, and act as an effectual controul over the Thannah Officers on the other. Now, it is not possible without an expence which is totally out of the question to reduce the size of the Districts, to bring the Court of the Magistrate within reach of every man's door, or enable him personally to exercise that vigorous superintendence over his more remote native establishments, without which, every endeavour to form a good Police, must prove abortive.

20 A mode is suggested for effecting both these indispensable objects, which has been perhaps best described by Mr W. F. Hathorn in his letter dated the 15th February 1837, we therefore quote his words—“ I am of opinion,” says that gentleman, “ that it is required both for the more speedy administration of criminal justice, as well as to ensure rigid surveillance over the Police, that native agency be introduced to such extent as may be necessary to prevent in future the possibility of arrears, and to leave the European Officers at liberty to look after the Police. To effect this object, I would propose, that Fouzdaree Mooniffs be appointed at each Police Thannah, and they should be employed not only in the investigation and report of all heinous crimes, but that they should be empowered to hear and decide on the spot upon all petty offences, such as charges for abusive language and calumny, inconsiderable assaults and petty thefts, &c. By this arrangement one half of the criminal cases, which under the present system, are tried by Covenanted Assistants at the Sudder Station, weeks and months after the occurrence, would be disposed of by the Fouzdaree Mooniffs in a few hours, or at the utmost in the course of a few days. Numerous other advantages would be gained, parties, instead of being dragged from their homes, thrown out of employment for weeks, nay months together—subjected to serious loss and inconvenience. would have justice given them and their wrongs redressed at their own doors. What greater hardship, nay cruelty, can be inflicted upon a poor family, than forcing the working members thereof to relinquish their labour by which they earn their daily bread, and undertake a journey to the Sudder Station, of some 30 or 40 miles, to give evidence in a case of abusive language or petty assault! The consequence is that, wherever a case occurs

“ the bystanders and respectable witnesses, knowing well the consequences of being
 “ cited as witnesses, to the fact, run off and conceal themselves—those seized
 “ will deny stoutly any knowledge of the transaction, while others will bribe
 “ the Darogah to be let off, and thus it is the poor and infirm, and per-
 “ sons of the lowest caste, are sent in by the Police as witnesses in all criminal
 “ trials. We shall not only obtain more respectable witnesses, in cases decided on
 “ the spot, but there will be less time allowed for framing exaggerated stories, or
 “ suborning perjured witnesses. The whole party will, of their own accord,
 “ proceed at once to the neighbouring Thannah. The one to prosecute, the other
 “ to vindicate, and the bystanders or witnesses will follow out of curiosity to see
 “ the result—no one will object to give evidence upon such terms, knowing that
 “ he will be immediately discharged, and the judgment it may be further argued, in
 “ cases thus brought forward, when the parties are excited, because the truth
 “ would be elicited, is more likely to be correct. The salaries of Fouzdaree Moon-
 “ siffs, I would fix at 50 or 60 Rupees each, exclusive of Establishment, which,
 “ giving ten Thannahs to each District, would be little more than the pay of an
 “ additional Covenanted Assistant at each station. This expense would be met
 “ in some degree by the additional sale of stamp paper, for how many criminal
 “ prosecutions are abandoned by injured persons to avoid the expense attending a
 “ journey to the Sudder Station? That the Police of the country can be re-orga-
 “ nized effectively, and criminal justice improved without some slight additional
 “ expense is altogether impossible. The above scheme is perhaps the cheapest
 “ that could be recommended. But the above are not all the advantages to be de-
 “ rived by the establishment of Fouzdaree Moonsiffs to dispose of all minor offen-
 “ ces. The Magistrate and his Assistant being relieved of a considerable portion
 “ of the trials, would be able to give more attention to matters of Police, and to
 “ that highly important object, and hearing appeals from Moonsiffs, and disposing
 “ of heinous offences, the time of European Covenanted Officers would be and
 “ should be exclusively devoted.”

21 This plan however, although it would put an end to the inconvenience of having to undertake a long journey to the Sudder Station, in cases of an inconsiderable nature, would not provide for exercising the requisite controul over the conduct of the Thannah Establishments. It would enable the Magistrate to pay more attention generally to Police matters, but it would not supply that local authority over those Establishments without which no effectual controul can be exercised. Another plan has been proposed better adapted, we think, to this purpose, of which several Officers of experience are the advocates, and which we cannot better describe than in the words of Mr Dampier, (vide letter dated the 15th November 1836,) as follows —“ Another great amelioration of our system would
 “ be the division of the Districts into minor circles of two or three Thannahs, with
 “ a superior Native Officer, with pay equal to that of a Moonsiff over each circle,
 “ this Officer should be authorized to take notice of and enquire into all cases
 “ of misconduct on the part of the Police, to report to the Magistrate any
 “ neglectful or corrupt conduct in the local investigations made by Darogahs, to
 “ conduct local enquiries on oath in affrays arising from disputed boundaries or
 “ lands, where affrays are likely to take place, and cases are instituted under

Regulation XV. of 1824, and to act both as a check and guide over the subordinate Police Officers, and as a local assistant to the Magistrate, and he might in the latter situation be vested with power to hear and decide petty cases of assault and theft referred to him by the Magistrate within his circle, and thus relieve the Sudder Ameens and Principal Sudder Ameens from a part of the duties, which now interfere with their entire attention being turned to their civil duties. I think the creation of such an office would be an inducement to Darogahs to adopt a better line of conduct, as they should be considered eligible for that office, as well as for that of a Moonsiff, and at present it would be a good opportunity for giving employment in the Mofussil in a respectable and honourable situation to many of those young men who have been educated at the Hindoo College or the Government Schools. A selection from these scholars for such offices would stimulate them and others to exertion, and prove to the people generally, that the Government were prepared to place those in their employ who had received the advantage of a superior moral education, and to whom, therefore, they would look with some degree of confidence for good conduct towards their countrymen. The holders of these offices might be considered eligible for Sudder Ameenships under the new system of promotion in the Judicial line of service, and should not be liable to dismissal without reference to the Sudder Nizamut Adawlut, or Government."

22d Baboo Dwarkanath Tagore in his evidence before the Committee, goes a step further, and recommends that the selection of this new description of Officers should not be restricted to Natives, but extended to other classes. He says that "to remedy the state of things complained of Deputy Magistrates should be appointed, either Native, East Indian, or European, and if selected from the two latter denominations, they should be conversant with the Native language, so as not to be dependant on the interpretations of other people, but understand directly the ryotts, and when they receive any petition in the vernacular language, that they may read it themselves. They should be taken from the respectable class of people, and not selected merely to increase the salary of those who are at present employed, whether Darogahs, Seristadars, or others, amongst whom a good man might perhaps here and there be found, but generally speaking they are good for nothing. The appointment of these new Officers should either be made by the Government or the Court of Sudder Dewanny Adawlut. They should be stationed in the interior, and their powers in criminal cases should correspond with those of Moonsiffs, and they should be allowed to exercise jurisdiction over the Thannadars. The present Darogahs should be abolished and the Thannas remodelled on the plan of those in Calcutta, the Jemadar or his Deputy should personally report as circumstances render necessary to the Deputy Magistrate, and if it comes to his knowledge that a quarrel or dispute is likely to take place, he should immediately give information to the Deputy Magistrate. In the Districts where there are a great many European residents, it would in my opinion be advisable to employ European Bailiffs, properly qualified, under the Deputy Magistrate, to do the duties of Darogah."

23. But even this appears to us to fall short of what is required. We are of opinion that the important object in view will not be attained by any plan which does not provide for the appointment of Deputy or Assistant Magistrates, with original jurisdiction in matters of Police, and with powers of punishment, in cases originating within the limits assigned to them, not exceeding six months' imprisonment with labour and irons, with a fine not exceeding two hundred rupees, commutable, if not paid, to a further period of imprisonment not exceeding six months. In all other respects these Officers will of course be under the general controul and superintendence of the Magistrate, to whom an appeal should lie in all cases from their orders and decisions. They should be taken from all classes where due qualification may be found, and located in different parts of the interior of each District, having authority over the Thannas only within the range of their respective jurisdictions, and be appointed and removed by Government, in the same mode as the Deputy Collectors and Sudder Ameen.

24. This it appears to us is the only proper footing on which the proposed new office can be effectually placed. It is of no use congregating authorities at the Sudder station, or of planting inadequate ones in the interior. No plan for controuling the Native Officers of Police at a distance, or of affording the people effectual protection can be successful, which does not provide for the distribution of functionaries, with powers of investigation and decision, and of controul, throughout the District, to reside amongst them, to satisfy them that the Police exists for their benefit as well as for our own, and to put an effectual stop to the progress of extortion and misrule.

25. Such an arrangement would relieve the Magistrate at the Sudder station of much of the duty which now oppresses him, and places it out of his power to exercise any effectual superintendence. It would provide by the employment of honest and intelligent men, that effective controul over the Thannadars which the Magistrate is now unable to exercise. It would place the Magistrate's Court within reach of every inhabitant of the District, and would bring his protective authority into immediate contact with the people. The greatest portion of evils to which they are at present exposed, would have a fair chance of being remedied, and we might look in process of time to the gradual removal of those feelings, which dispose the community at large to regard being involved with matters of Police, as the worst of misfortunes.

26. But the Assistant Magistrates, whose appointment we have recommended, should not we think be introduced at once into every District under the Government of Bengal. Their introduction, we are of opinion, like that of the Uncovenanted Deputy Collectors appointed under Regulation IX of 1833, should be gradual, and limited at first to a few Districts only, where such an arrangement may be most urgently required. Nor would there be at present any necessity for establishing grades either of rank or emolument, should the measure prove on trial to be successful, it will then be time enough to increase the number of these Officers, establish grades, and place them in all respects on as efficient a footing as the

Uncovenanted Deputies above referred to, whose services have been so useful to the State, that there are now employed under the Bengal Government alone no less than 159, and in the North Western Provinces they are, it is understood, entertained in the same proportion

27 Taking the number of Thannahs at ~~44~~ (which if not the exact number now under the Superintendent of Police, is sufficiently correct for the purpose of an estimate,) and reserving 4 Thannahs for the especial superintendence of each Magistrate of the 32 Districts with which we have at present to deal, and a like number for each of the Assistant Magistrates, there would not be more than 79 of the latter Officers, who, if the plan succeeds, might be divided into three grades as follows

5	on	600	Rupees per month,
10	on	400	.. ditto,
64	on	300	ditto,

making an annual expense of Rupees 3,14,100, to which must be added for Establishment at 80 Rs each per mensem, Rs 75,840, giving a total expense amounting to Rs 3,89,748

28 But no such outlay is at present contemplated In the first instance the Officers in question will be extremely few, and on the lowest grade of salary, which will be sufficient to test the utility of the measure, and it is only in the event of its being attended with beneficial effects that we propose to extend it to other Districts, as may appear advisable And it should always be borne in mind, that although such an extension will of course be accompanied by a corresponding increase of expense, yet that this expense will be more than compensated by the advantages resulting from it

29 With respect to the proposal of employing European residents in the Mofussil, engaged in mercantile and agricultural pursuits, in aid of the Police, all those considerations which have hitherto been deemed conclusive against Magistrates being allowed to engage in such pursuits, are equally opposed to persons so engaged being appointed Magistrates We by no means intend to imply that individuals of the latter description, as well as of the former, may not be found, in whom both characters might be united without inconvenience, but it would be rare, and the rule once broken through, would lead unquestionably to great abuses We need hardly add that the same objections exist to investing them with powers for the apprehension of criminals and investigation of charges, but without authority to punish. It would be as unsafe and injudicious to entrust persons so situated with a little magisterial power, as to authorize those exercising the functions of Magistrate to engage in a little trade

30 The defect which we have next to bring to notice is one that has been already referred to, namely, the corruption and utter worthlessness of the Thannadars. All concur in thinking that this class of functionaries are on the worst

possible footing, and that it would be better to dispense with them altogether, unless inducements can be held out sufficiently strong, to dispose persons of character and respectability to offer themselves for the appointment. In proof of what is above stated, we beg leave to refer to the evidence given before us by Baboo Dwarkanauth Tagore on the 8th November last, from which the following is an extract

“ 263—You had then many opportunities of observing the condition of the “ Police—state what you think of it’ I think that from the Darogah to the lowest “ peon the whole of them are a corrupt set of people,—a single case could not be “ got out of their hands without paying money—the wealthy always get advantage “ over the poor. In quarrels between the Zumeendars and Indigo Planters, large “ sums are expended to bribe these people—when any report is called for by the “ Magistrate from the Darogahs, even in a true case, that report could not be ob- “ tained without paying a large sum of money, and should the case be between “ two rich parties, the richest or he who pays the highest, would get the report in his “ favour. If a Jamadar or peon is sent to a village for any enquiry, there is imme- “ diately a tax levied by them from all the Ryotts of the Village, through the “ Gomastah of the Zumeendar, and this mode of extortion has so long prevailed “ as almost to give it the character of a just demand—so much so that not a single “ Ryott would ever make an objection to pay it. Indeed they look upon it as an “ authorized tax. If a Dacoity takes place in any neighbourhood, the Darogah and “ all his people will go about the villages and indiscriminately seize the inhabitants, “ innocent or culpable, and it often happens that persons so taken, although of the “ most suspicious character, in the particular transaction, are released on some “ money inducement being given to the Officers. Besides the levy of the tax above “ mentioned, formerly in every petty theft, the same process was observed, but “ since (by Regulation II of 1832) that local enquiry is done away with, their “ perquisites are a little reduced in that quarter. In short nothing can be done “ without paying for it whenever they are called upon to interfere ”

31 Mr Hawkins in his report, dated the 11th January 1837, after giving almost an equally unfavourable description of the state of the Police, and referring to the general unwillingness of the community to admit Officers belonging to it, amongst them, owing to those “ habits of plunder and extortion” by which they have ever been characterized, proceeds to describe in very forcible terms, the causes to which these habits are attributable. “ Devoid,” he observes, “ to a great “ extent of those moral qualifications which are in themselves a guarantee for the “ faithful discharge of public duties, have the persons usually selected for office “ in the Police Department had inducements held out to them to keep them in “ the way of uprightness and integrity? Have we endeavoured to compensate “ for the moral deficiency by inducements of self interest” to a course of good conduct’ “ Is not the true state of the case, exactly the reverse? Look “ to the Police Darogah, selected without reference to qualification (the deter- “ mination of which, it must be admitted, is generally difficult) expected to be “ incessantly on the move, for which he must keep a conveyance of some “ kind, in the receipt of a very inadequate salary, with no prospect of

“promotion, ever liable to the displeasure of the Magistrate, his immediate superior, (a displeasure arising too frequently from chagrin and vexation, rather than strict enquiry and mature deliberation) constantly subjected to a change of masters, and in the event of dismissal from office, with every chance of employment in another District in the same class of appointments—is it surprising that he should be found deficient in the discharge of his public duties? that he should seek rather to enrich himself, than exert his endeavours faithfully in behalf of those for whose benefit he is employed? Nearly the same observations are applicable to the several subordinate classes of Police Officers entertained by the Government.”

32 In another place the same gentleman remarks—“The off-hand way of dismissing whole bodies of them, is one of the greatest vices of the present practice and is in itself no slight cause of those very evils which it is intended to check. A Darogah has no confidence in the permanency of his office, and while employed, he makes the most of his time in gathering together all in his power, uncertain when the order for his removal may arrive. The occurrence of a Dacoity or other serious offence, for which the Darogah is probably no more in fault than the Magistrate himself and which may occur at any hour, might be the cause of his dismissal, especially if he fails to discover and apprehend the perpetrators. There is a most pernicious practice, which I believe prevail very generally, of fining Police Officers heavily for the slightest errors. In such cases they will very seldom appeal against the orders of their employers but will most assuredly make up the deficiency in their receipts in a far more objectionable way.”

33 The above are the sentiments of almost all who have been consulted whether in or out of the service. Further quotations on this subject would be superfluous, but if additional particulars are required, we beg that reference may be made to the letters of Messrs. Dumpercy, Davidson, A. Dick, J. Shaw, Russell, Dunbar, Pigou, Gordon, and Lewis, and to the examinations before the Committee of Messrs. Adam, Wise, Maclean, Hurry, Tivlor, W. A. Shaw, and Biboo Prosonocoomar. Mr. Adam's testimony especially appears to us deserving of particular attention, being the result of very careful enquiries, under circumstances of intercourse and communication with the Natives in different parts of the interior of the country, such as few have had the opportunity of enjoying.

34 From all this most unquestionable testimony it is obvious that the allowances of this class of Officers, not being sufficient to enable them to keep up an appearance corresponding with their situation, they must take in some shape or other from the people what the Government refuse to allow, and thus *the Government in fact impose upon the community the payment of whatever sum, short of the allowed salary, is necessary for their decent subsistence.* An increase to that extent therefore, if only to remove a fair justification for exaction, seems indispensably requisite. Moreover, it is impossible to expect in Thannadars an exemption from those motives and feelings which actuate all other classes of mankind, and accordingly the same rewards and inducements must be laid before them. If it be necessary to retain the services of respectable Natives for these appointments, not only

should their salaries be increased to such amount as will enable them to keep up at least a creditable appearance without exaction, but they must have something to look forward to, and despair of ever being able, by any exertion or good conduct on their part, to better their situation beyond the actual receipt of 25 Rupees a month, must no longer be allowed to drive them to make the most of their opportunities. Grades of Thannadars should be established in the same manner as there are classes of Mooniffs and Sudder Ameens, promotion to the higher grades being held out as the reward of length of service and certified good conduct. Such system has been found to succeed in the Judicial Department, and there is no reason to doubt that it would be equally successful with the Police.

35 The number of Thannadars may for our present purpose be taken at 444. To 50 of these, we would assign salaries of 100 Rupees each per mensem, to 100 others we would give 75 Rs., and to the remainder 50 Rs. The entire expense of this arrangement would be Rupees 3,26,100 per annum, from which is to be deducted the present pay of the Thannadars, (about Rs. 1,35,000), leaving a net increase of Rs. 1,91,400.

36 In the salaries of the other Police Officers, we see no reason at present to make any alteration.

37 Measures should likewise be adopted to secure the Thannadars not only from being removed on insufficient grounds, but from ill-treatment. It is established by the best evidence that they are often treated by the Magistrates with no consideration, fined inordinately, summoned continually to answer unfounded charges, and removed without sufficient cause to distances, where their local experience is lost. The difficulty of procuring respectable and efficient individuals as Police Darogahs, has been stated to arise in part from the fear of dismissal from office, or of being disgraced by punishment, in cases of trivial misconduct, or at the caprice of the Magistrate, and when in addition to this it is considered that they have no adequate pay, and no prospect of promotion, it is not very extraordinary the generality of them should be corrupt, and that no persons of any character or respectability offer themselves for the situation.

38 Unless these changes can be effected, and the office of Thannadar placed upon a footing that will secure the services of respectable men, and put an end to the necessity, if we may so speak, under which they lie, of becoming the oppressors of the people whom they are appointed to protect, it would be better, we are of opinion, to dispense with them altogether.

39. The same principles as have been recommended above to be acted upon in respect to Thannadars, should, as suggested by Mr. Hawkins, be adopted likewise towards their inferior Officers. The system of promotion should be strictly kept in view throughout every grade. The lowest Police Officer should be apprised that the highest offices, in his Department, are open to him, and that his attaining them rests entirely with himself. Every Burkendaz should feel, as well as every Jamadar, and every Darogah, that zealous exertions, and an upright and

meritorious course of conduct, will certainly be rewarded by advancement to more responsible and lucrative employment. This must not rest on mere professions, but the Magistrates should be required invariably to act on these principles, and the controuling authorities should satisfy themselves that they do so.

40. One of our members would suggest that the sentence of the Magistrate for neglect of duty, or other breach of good conduct committed by native Police Officers in their public capacity, be made appealable to the Superintendant of Police, to whom monthly statements of all such sentences should be regularly submitted for his information. This arrangement which would leave them still liable as before to the appellate jurisdiction of the Sessions Judge for offences committed by them as private individuals, appears necessary in order to keep a body of men so numerous, in salutary subjection to the superior authority most interested in seeing that they do their duty on the one hand, and in restraining them from the commission of any official irregularity on the other. As matters actually stand, the Sessions Judge is in fact the controuling authority, while the responsibility rests alone with the chief of the Department, who doubtless ought to be vested with the power of taking cognizance judicially, of the conduct of his subordinate Officers.

41. The majority of the Committee are not advocates for a system of Military Police, as suggested in Mr Secretary Mangles' circular letter of the 30th May 1837. To convert the whole of the Police Establishments of each District into a single organized body, the head-quarters of which are to be at the Sudder Station, where they are to be subject to regular drill, and supply reliefs to the different Thannahs, so as to keep up habits of discipline and combined action, without losing that individual intelligence and alertness and those habits of self-confidence, essential to the efficiency of Police Officers, would without an immense increase of expense be impracticable, while there would be great danger of their losing their efficiency as Police Officers, without their being of any use against mobs, or bodies collected together on occasion of sudden and general excitement to resist the public authority.

42. It is to be lamented that such occasions require to be provided for, but we are not inclined to think for reasons presently to be assigned, that the Police in the country can ever become a suitable instrument for the purpose. The proper business for the Police is to deal with crime against life and property, not to put down insurrection, with which it never yet in any instance has been, or ever can be, able to cope. It would give them the self-sufficiency of the Sepoy without his discipline, they would, to use the words of Captain Jenkins in his letter dated the 21st July 1837, "become a body of organized ruffians which the Magistrate would have very little power of controuling" They would be above their work. In the ordinary duties of the Police, men so organized, even if they could lay aside their arms and accoutrements, and submit to the drudgery, would not be so well qualified for tracing out and detecting the perpetrators of crimes, and discovering the depositaries of stolen property, as those, who having been many years attached to a Thannah, are well acquainted with the character of the classes they have to deal with, and better able to know where to attach suspicion, and obtain a clue, from

the intercourse subsisting between them and the people. In short, for all purposes of prevention and discovery, the present system is better adapted than the one which it is proposed to substitute.

43 In cases of Dacoity, when that disease of the Bengal Provinces becomes as it were epidemic, it is then to be overcome only by special remedies, and like Thuggee in Central India, must be met by extraordinary arrangements—as to insurrection, it has been found on all occasions, witness the disturbances at Bareilly and Benares, that in such cases the best organized Police becomes useless. The individuals of whom it is composed are influenced by the feelings of the populace from which they are drawn, and cannot consequently be depended on. It is only by calling in the regular Military, who from their insulated position with reference to the people, do not participate their feelings, that any thing can be done on such occasions. The duties of Police Officers are quite a different description, and to these they should be kept in this, as well as in all other countries. At stations however where no Military force is within reach, and the Magistrates have nothing to fall back upon in the event of any popular excitement, or other unusual occurrence, beyond the power of the Police to repress, there should be entertained we think at the Sudder Stations, as suggested by the late Mr. C. R. Barwell, a number of picked men, trained and disciplined, who might serve as a protection until more effectual aid could be procured.

44 If more than this be required, if under existing circumstances it be advisable to organize the Jail Guards, and the Guards entertained for the protection of the several Officers, Courts, Treasuries, Fiscal as well as Judicial, at the Sudder Stations, the best way would be at once to revive the Provincial Battalions, which were of so much use in former days, and which, besides answering Police purposes, possess the advantage of relieving the regular corps from harassing municipal duties, for which their services cannot at all times be conveniently spared.

45 We now come to the most important subject connected with the Police of Bengal, namely, the state of the Chowkeedaree Establishments. In some Districts their numerical strength appears to be very great, yet they are utterly inefficient, and have been described in the most unfavorable terms. Mr. W. T. Hathorn, Judge of Zillah Cuttack, in his letter already referred to, observes,—
 “ That from the total absence of any supervision over the village Police for a series
 “ of years, it may be said that at present such a body does not exist. The race
 “ of people denominated Chowkeedars, retain the name apparently to blind the
 “ people as to their real character. They are employed during the day to assist
 “ the Zemindar in collecting his rents, and at night they act as the agents of noto-
 “ rious characters, to point out where property is to be found! This is easily
 “ accounted for. The office is held by the very lowest caste of Natives, and they are
 “ allowed by the Zemindars to realize what they can from the villagers for their
 “ maintenance. They have in a measure held us at defiance heretofore. If a
 “ Chowkeedar be accidentally detected at conniving at any offence, and the Ma-
 “ gistrate orders his dismissal, directing the Darogah through the Zemindar to
 “ appoint another in his stead, his son or his nephew’s name is handed up for

“approval, and in ignorance is appointed. The Chowkeedars in Bengal and Behar are, for the most part, of the following castes . Harrees, Bagdhees, Baorees, Dusads, and Domes. In Orissa Pans, Kindrahs, and Mehters. These castes are deemed so inferior that they are employed as scavengers, and such like degrading offices. No Hindoo Native of a higher caste would even touch them, to do so, or to take any thing from them, is held to be a forfeiture of caste, they seldom realize by honest means above one or two rupees per mensem at the utmost and are therefore always ready to connive at offences on the promise of getting a share of the stolen property. It is not an uncommon trick amongst the Chowkeedars to apply for leave of absence before a burglary or a dacoity takes place, to quiet suspicion against them, after having informed where property is to be found, and the time and manner in which the theft can be accomplished with the least chance of detection to the parties concerned.

46 Mr Hawkins in his letter dated the 11th January 1837, observes,—“I now approach that part of the subject, which I confess completely baffles me. the Village or Chowkeedaree Police. On a really efficient footing the Village Police is sufficiently strong to put down a great portion of the existing crime, and (intimately acquainted and connected are its members with the great mass of the population) to afford material assistance in the discovery and detection of offenders. There is, or ought to be, a Chowkeedar at least in every village, who in some places is appointed by the landholder or farmer as the case may be, in others by the head men of the village. The persons who appoint are generally held responsible by the Magistrate for the filling up of the office with somebody or another, though but little is ever said, should the nominee turn out, as not unfrequently he does, an arrant thief”

“Unfortunately no small number of the crimes of a felonious nature, such as robbery, burglary, and theft are committed by the Chowkeedars—till within the last few years subjected to corporal punishment, (about the infliction of which the Magistrates were not very chary) always badly paid, sometimes not paid at all, they were a harshly treated race, and it was not surprising that none but the lowest of the people could be found to undertake the duty. In the Districts of Bengal in which I have served, the Chowkeedars are invariably of the Harree, Chumar, and Dusad castes, in Behar they are chiefly Guallahs and Dusads. In the Upper Provinces I believe they are generally Chumars; so that throughout the whole of India, the Chowkeedaree Police is composed of the very lowest of the people.”

“I do not mean to object to any person merely on account of his caste, but experience tells us that very great number of our convicted felons are taken from the same classes. Many a Magistrate must have observed that a man has turned Chowkeedar merely because it gives him an excuse for leaving his home at night, in order that he may go upon his thieving expeditions.”

“I am totally at a loss for a remedy which will admit of practical application. The abolition of corporal punishment may in time do something towards inducing

“ a better set of men to enter into the Chowkeedaree service , but confined as these situations are to men of particular classes, the trammels of caste must, in a great measure, be broken through, ere better men can be found to undertake the office.”

“ Again, there is no set of men so badly paid. I believe there is an enactment which directs that no Chowkeedar shall receive less than three rupees per month , frequently he gets very little more than as many annas , and in fact, as I stated before, he looks to making more by thieving than honest service ”

47. Mr. W. A. Pringle in his letter dated the 7th of February 1837, gives similar testimony—“ At present the village watchmen are badly and irregularly paid, and though nominally under one master only, the Darogah, they are bullied and oppressed by almost every man in the village The Zemindars and Farmers, and their Amlah, too often employ them in collecting rent and in oppressing the Ryotts, the head men of the village make perfect slaves of them, and the inhabitants down to the very lowest, constantly threaten them with false complaints, if they demand their poor pittance The Chowkeedar therefore in self-defence, being thus placed at enmity with them all, threatens them with false accusations in the event of their refusing, or being unable, to pay him, and he is frequently driven, for bare subsistence, to league himself with robbers and thieves ”

48. Mr. F. R. Davidson also in his letter dated the 10th June 1837, remarks.—“ I am not willing to advocate any radical change in the rule under which Chowkeedars are nominated by the Zemindar, because, from his position, he is the person most interested in the welfare of the residents on his estate, and from knowing the tenantry, he can make the most suitable selection Where the Zemindar is of bad repute, and crime be found to prevail in the neighbourhood, the Punch may be introduced, for in reality the main body of the inhabitants are the parties most concerned in the appointment of a good Chowkeedar At the lowest computation this branch of the Police in the four Districts, Sarun, Shahabad, Patna and Behar, exceeds fifteen thousand men, yet it is so utterly worthless, that I am not sure the country would be in a worse position in point of Police were every Chowkeedar dismissed—they comprize the most debased class of the inhabitants, and are I fear, usually, rather engaged in robbery and theft, than in guarding the property of their employers. In the District of Sarun they are said to be the leaders of gangs, and they are notoriously the medium by which stolen property is restored throughout the Division A radical reform is here loudly called for, and I believe that the zeal and judgment of the gentlemen who will have to perfect the arrangements in the several Zillahs, may effect much, if supported by an enactment providing for the regular remuneration of Village Watchmen, at present, their stipend varies in every village from one rupee twelve annas to three rupees per mensem, and in nine instances out of ten the Chowkeedar neither demands nor receives a fraction of the sum, but lives upon his wife, and the facilities which his supposed employment as a watchman, afford of preying upon the public. This should be changed and all Chowkeedars be nominated by the Landholders, or a “ Punch ” of villagers, their names registered,

" and their appointments approved of by the Magistrate of the Zillahs, a certain rate of pay should then be fixed, and the Darogah should have full authority to levy it, in case of non-payment, by distraint, from the Zemindar, if the nomination of the Chowkeedar rested with him, and from the Jeyt Ryots where they had selected their own watchman."

49 The papers submitted for our consideration abound with evidence to the same effect, but the above will be sufficient to shew that nothing can be in a worse state than these establishments, and that the most urgent necessity exists for a thorough revision, not in one or two Districts merely, but throughout the country, in order to place them in a state of efficiency. In some Districts the allowances for watchmen are very great, in Purneah for instance they are stated by Mr. Pringle to amount to no less than Sicca Rupees 1,96,132-4 annas per annum, a sum which, at the rate of 4 Rupees each per mensem, would admit under a well regulated system of the employment for that District alone of 4,000 men, and yet the establishment is described not only as utterly useless for Police purposes, but as a curse instead of a blessing to the community. It is the same almost every where else, and it is even a question whether an order issued throughout the country to apprehend and confine them, would not do more to put a stop to theft and robbery than any other measure that could be adopted—a general revision therefore is urgently required, both to remove a pressing evil which the disorganization of these establishments has occasioned, and to enable them to answer the end for which they were appointed. There is great difference however of opinion as to the proper course to be pursued for the purpose.

50 Formerly the establishments in question were not only paid by, but were entirely under the controul of the village communities, the landholders were bound to keep the peace, and in the event of any theft or robbery being committed, within their respective estates, to produce both the robbers and plundered property, or to make good the loss. But by the Regulations of 1793 the Police was declared to be under the exclusive charge of the Officers of Government, and all descriptions of Village Watchmen were subjected to the orders of the Darogah, while the privilege of appointing and filling up vacancies was still continued to the landholders, who were held responsible under severe penalties not only to give information of every crime committed, but also to assist in apprehending the perpetrators, although deprived of all Police powers, and even of the controul over the Chowkeedars—a system so full of anomalies could not do otherwise than fail. The Zemindars untrusting with authority, but still held responsible, would of course afford no cordial co-operation. The Chowkeedars required to serve two masters, nominated and entitled to receive their pay from the one, but bound to obey and liable to punishment and dismissal from the other, effectually serve neither—while the public authority, in support of which they are expected to co-operate, is naturally hated and betrayed by both.

51. In this state of things, it has been proposed* to dispense with the Zemindars' interference altogether, and to take the whole into the hands of the Government. To realize the allowances in money or land assigned for the main-

* This para. of Mr. Pringle's letter dated 28th Dec. 1807.

tenance of the village watchmen, by assessing the land, and collecting the money through the Zemindars, to be paid by them with their land revenue into the Collector's Treasury, allowing them ten per cent. for expenses of collection, and for being answerable for punctual payment, in the same manner as they are for land revenue. This, it is stated, would supply a fund more than sufficient for the support all over the country of an efficient Village Police, to be paid by Government, and placed under the exclusive orders and controul of the public authorities.

52. There cannot be any doubt that as matters actually stand, no greater boon could be bestowed on the Zemindars than to relieve them from all Police responsibility, beyond what attaches to every other individual of the community, and it is obvious that if in future they are to exercise no authority either in the appointment or superintendence of the Village Police within their respective estates, no such responsibility can equitably be attached to them. But hitherto the greatest importance has been attached to the system of Village Police founded on the ancient usages of the country, on the conviction that without this groundwork all other means for the maintenance of peace and good order must end in failure. The desire has uniformly been to secure if possible the co-operation of the agricultural community in aid of the Police Establishments, such has been the object of every law for the improvement of the Police since the year 1793, to the present day, it was partly with this view that the union of the offices of Magistrate and Collector was recently brought about, and is still defended by many of its advocates. It is to the want of co-operation on the part of the community in general, and the Zemindars in particular, that the inefficiency of the Police is uniformly ascribed, and it would therefore, we think, be injudicious to adopt a measure, the effect of which must be to deprive us of it still more, without first ascertaining whether or not our endeavours have been well calculated to effect the object intended.

53. Perhaps the present defective state of the Village Police is chiefly owing to our own neglect—no rules have been framed, for defining the authority to which the Police Officers belonging to it are to be subject, the duties they are to perform, the scale of remuneration to be received, the source from which it was to be derived, or the mode in which payment was to be enforced—the fallacy of condemning the system for inefficiency under such circumstances is obvious. The error lies not in the system, but, in having allowed it to fall into decay, and by disgusting all parties connected with it, instead of encouraging and protecting them. Let us not pull down, but restore—the majority of the Committee think that to divest the Zemindars of all responsibility and interference, and convert the Village Police into Thannah Burkundazes, to be appointed, paid, and regulated in all respects by the Magistrate, without the intervention either of the village community, or of the landholders, would be to subvert at once the whole constitution of village society, to transform the village watch as well as the Thannah Officers into a Military Police, to re-impose that vexatious interference with its internal concerns from which Government found it necessary to relieve them by the enactment of Regulation II. of 1832, to alienate more even than at present the regard of the people from the Police, and render the latter still more an exclusive body, with which the community at large are not only unwilling to co-operate, but regard with feelings

of antipathy, which it is an object of the greatest importance to us to endeavour if possible to overcome.

54. We cannot refrain from quoting here the observation upon this subject of Mr. Lewis, contained in his letter of the 2d May 1837—"By far the greatest impediment to the success of Police operations in this country, arises from the total want of co-operation on the part of the people, exaction on the one hand, and fear, ignorance and prejudice on the other, have drawn a very marked line between the regular Police Officer and the public, for whose benefit he is ostensibly employed, and whatever the crime may be, or however notorious and dangerous the offender, the village community rarely shows any disposition to assist either in tracing the one or in apprehending the other, their sole object being to get rid as speedily as possible of their unwelcome visitors by any story most likely to effect their purpose. But in the character and disposition of the Village Chowkeedar there is something common to both parties, when properly treated he can give, and he frequently does give, most valuable information; and it has therefore always appeared to me a most desirable object, to make this connecting link between the Police and people as sound and serviceable as possible."

55. We doubt much if any description of Village Police can be efficient, we are quite sure that none can be popular, which is not based on the principle advocated by Mr. Lewis in the above extract. Our controul over the establishment, as it is now, being the point in which we are most deficient, there is no possibility of its being increased by doing away with the intervention of those to whom we should look for exercising it with effect, and whose influence if not exercised in our favour is sure to be exerted against us.

56. And here we would ask, supposing the whole of the Police, both regular and subsidiary, to be taken into the hands of the Government and transformed as proposed into a military body, and supposing it to answer as an instrument of coercion and subjection far better than the present establishments with all their defects entirely removed, would it be desirable thus to dispense, even if we could, with the co-operation of the people, to set their influence at defiance, and to act as if we had no hold upon the country but the sword? Would it be politic, we ask, to give up without a further attempt, all hope of ever conciliating them, or of impressing upon them the conviction, that their benefit, as well as our own, is the main object of all our institutions?

57. We think not, and would therefore prefer, in the first instance at least, an attempt to reform the old system before we introduce a new one. As the first step, the village establishments should be carefully revised, and an allowance assigned to each watchman which shall be an adequate remuneration for his services. This may be done by means of a new allotment of the allowances, whether in money or land, already assigned for their support, by reducing the number of watchmen in order to increase their pay, where the allowances are insufficient, by recovering such lands as have been misappropriated or improperly resumed by the Zemindars, by substituting a money payment on the part of the Zemindars for

assignments of land wherever it may be practicable ; in short, by re-organizing the whole of the Establishments, by framing rules of conduct, by defining the powers and responsibilities of the village authorities, to whom the watchmen should be subordinate on the one hand, and the duties to be performed by the latter on the other, and lastly, by placing their pay on a footing which would secure them an adequate subsistence as long as they behave well, without their being driven to look for it to illegitimate sources. The worthlessness of the Village Police principally arises from their poverty, which exposes them to the temptation of screening offenders for the sake of a portion of the plunder, and of even turning thieves themselves in order to prevent starvation. Moreover, unless an adequate remuneration be provided for them, there is no mode of enforcing the discharge of their duties. Imprisonment with felons in a common jail is not a fit punishment for a Police Officer—a fine imposed on a person who has nothing wherewith to pay, would only send him to steal—while dismissal from a situation to which a suitable allowance is not attached, is altogether nugatory for such a purpose. Good pay would at once secure their activity and respectability, and there would probably be but little occasion then to punish them for misconduct.

58. The rules above proposed the Magistrate should be invested with power effectually to enforce, taking care at the same time that the privileges of the landholders and village communities, should never be interfered with, and holding the Zemindars primarily responsible for the conduct of the Chowkeedars. Thus re-organized, the village watch might, we think, become a valuable establishment, while the Zemindars would feel a far greater interest than they do, or can, at present, in maintaining its efficiency.

59. Such a system would remove at once all the anomalies now experienced—the responsibilities of the Zemindars would be real instead of nominal, they would compel the watchmen to do their duty instead of conniving at their misconduct, the latter would have to serve one instead of two masters, the loss of place would be a real punishment, and the situation having become more respectable, would probably by degrees be an object of desire to other than the very lowest classes.

60. We are decidedly averse to the repeal of Regulation II. of 1834, in the case of Village Police of any denomination whatever. To subject them to corporal punishment, which was formerly known only for theft, is to reduce them to the level of thieves, and under such degradation no hope can be entertained that the situation will be ever taken by persons of the smallest respectability. Discharge from service is the only fit punishment for neglect of duty on the part of such officers, and to render this effectual, their pay must, as above stated, be remunerative and certain.

61. We do not recommend that Regulation II. of 1832 be repealed. It appears to be generally approved of by the people, and in India where no confidence can be placed in the lower Officers of Police, their interference should be dispensed with, whenever it can be done with safety. A system which requires the interference of the Police on every trifling matter, must inevitably be vexatious and unpopular.

62. At the same time however that we would exempt the people from all irksome and unnecessary molestation on the part of the local authorities, the latter should be armed to the fullest extent with power to afford them redress when required, against every class and description of persons, whether Native or European; and this leads us to notice the exemption of European British subjects in criminal matters from the jurisdiction of the local authorities. As that exemption does not extend to Europeans of any other nation, or to Americans, or to Natives of any other country residing in the Interior, it is a privilege which individuals belonging to the parent state exclusively enjoy at the expense of equal justice, to the great annoyance of the Native community whom they have thus the power of oppressing with very little risk of punishment, and to the hindrance of the Police, which under these circumstances they are enabled to set at defiance.

63. It has been stated in evidence before us that owing to British-born subjects not being amenable to the local Courts in cases of felony, and to the necessity of sending them with all the witnesses to Calcutta before they can be tried, their services are performed by European traders residing in the Interior who carry on dealings with the Natives to all other classes, on account of that very exemption—that consequently the Law, especially in Districts remote from Calcutta, does not afford sufficient protection to the Natives against British-born Europeans, and that an efficient Police could but with difficulty be maintained where those individuals might be found residing in considerable number.

64. But exclusive of this evidence, there are numerous instances on record within our own personal knowledge and experience, to prove that the exemption in question has been lamentably abused, and that owing to the difficulties of bringing an Englishman to justice, the salutary restraint which the presence of competent authority naturally imposes is now here felt, and that outrages, which would be visited at home with condign punishment, are passed over with impunity. The only remedy at present is a prosecution in the Supreme Court in Calcutta, to which, as it is not in the power of the poor people to resort, there is no real redress for such wrongs. It is not therefore surprising that we should be looked upon both with dislike and apprehension, or that the sudden appearance of a European in a village, as has been remarked by an acute observer,* should be “a terror to the inhabitants.”

* Vide third Report on the state of Education of Bengal by Wm Adam

65. Under these considerations we are of opinion, that British-born subjects residing in the Interior, should, like all other classes of the community, be placed in criminal matters, not involving capital punishment, within the jurisdiction of the local Courts, on the broad principle that persons of every description should be subject alike to the controul of the authorities where they reside, and that no distinction in this respect should exist between one class and another.

66. Mr. D. C. Smyth, late a Member of this Committee, has left a Minute on our proceedings with a proposal on this subject to the following effect, which we think it right to quote, stating at the same time that we altogether dissent from it.

“ British subjects should be made amenable to the local Magistrates, for all offences, in which a fine of 500 Rupees might be deemed sufficient, or in default of payment to two months’ imprisonment, in a suitable place of confinement. An appeal from this sentence to lie direct to the Court of Nizamut Adawlut. Should any British subjects stand charged with an offence calling for a more severe punishment, but not extending to the penalty of death,—the Magistrate should commit him to take his trial before a Special Local Court, which I would denominate an “European Court of Justice,” this Court should be nominated by the Supreme Government, and should usually consist of the Session Judge of the District and of a Barrister selected from the Calcutta bar, who should on these occasions, be deputed to the District, and to be paid of course for this special duty. Before a Court, thus formed, every British subject committing any serious offence in the Interior should be tried, and I would give this Court power to sentence a British subject to a fine of 1000 Rupees, or to two years’ imprisonment, or to both. In cases wherein the two Commissioners might differ, or in cases calling for a more severe sentence, the record should be sent up to a superior Special Commission consisting of two Judges of the Supreme Court, and one Judge of the Nizamut Adawlut. The proceedings should all be recorded in English, and sworn interpreters should be employed. Such a Court would, I believe, command the respect, both of our British and Native subjects. The Barrister would take care that all the forms and usual modes of conducting a criminal trial agreeably to the English Law, were properly attended to, and that the law of evidence was strictly abided by. The Sessions Judge on the other hand, would see that all the points of the case, that an English lawyer might not from want of local experience, be acquainted with, were brought clearly to light, and that the customs and usages of the Natives were not overlooked. Such a tribunal I feel satisfied “ would work well in practice.”

67. We altogether dissent from this plan, because it appears to us that Special Courts for the ordinary administration of justice are objectionable, and that without distinction of caste or colour all persons residing in the same country, and brought by the daily transactions of life into contact with one another, should in all matters, be subject to the same laws and the same tribunals. Of the necessity and propriety of dealing with all alike on the plan which we have recommended, and of doing away with the invidious distinction of having one description of tribunal for the governors and another for the governed, there cannot we think exist for a moment any reasonable doubt. The present system, now that the country has been opened to Englishmen of all kinds, cannot continue, nor was it intended by the Charter Act that it should do so. That Act, after providing for the admission of British settlers, enjoins the immediate adoption of measures for the protection of the Natives from the wrongs which may be apprehended from them. The injustice to the people of the country of exempting a class of persons who now enjoy a right of free resort to the Interior, from the jurisdiction of the local authorities, which are always open to them against the people, appears to us to be an evil so great as to outweigh all other considerations.

68. Practically the effect of placing British-born subjects in the Interior within the jurisdiction of the Local Courts, will be to impose upon them those restraints which are now felt only at the Capital, and which render crimes of a heinous nature amongst them there, of very rare occurrence. By those whose objects are honest and justifiable, no inconvenience will be experienced by the change, and the remonstrances from persons of a different stamp, do not deserve to be attended to.

69. We have now gone through all the principal points connected with the state of the Mofussil Police, in which, it appears to us, that the existing system requires amendment. There remain however a few secondary matters relating less to principle than to practice, which have been brought to our notice, and which we consider it our duty, before concluding, to solicit the particular attention of Government.

70. The first point is, that the proceedings both of the Magistrates, and at the Thannahs, require to be considerably abbreviated. In regard to the former, the records of a trial need contain only the examinations and the depositions of the parties, together with the final order of the Magistrate, and the reasons for passing it. But according to practice the record contains a great deal more. The final roobukaree, and often the intermediate proceedings, are swelled by a recapitulation of the depositions of all parties examined, although the original depositions immediately precede it. This at best is a needless waste of time and labor, while it affords the Amlah an opportunity to distort and misstate the evidence, in order to magnify to the parties their own influence and importance. In the judgment of the Committee the final roobukaree, or proceeding, should contain merely the order or sentence in the case, and the reasoning on which it is founded. Those who are acquainted with the length, to which, by the present practice, a final roobukaree in the most trifling cases is extended, well know how great a saving of ill-employed time and labor, and therefore how desirable an improvement, would be effected by the proposed abbreviation.

71. In regard to the Thannah Reports, it appears to us that they are susceptible of much simplification and improvement. The practice in this respect may be described as follows. On receiving intelligence of an occurrence requiring local investigation, the Darogah forthwith transmits to the Magistrate a report of the information, containing generally an abstract, or a copy, (sometimes both) of the deposition of the prosecutor or informant, with notice of the reporter's intention to proceed himself, or to depute one of his subordinates, to the place of occurrence, for the purpose of local investigation. After the completion of the investigation, the Darogah, or other investigating officer, forwards what is called a *sooruthall*, or statement, with or without prisoners, witnesses, and prosecutors, as the case may be. This document is a voluminous compilation in the Native language of all depositions taken on the spot, from such persons as the Police Officer chooses to examine, the examinations of accused parties, an account of the Police Officer's own proceedings during the investigation, and a summary of his opinion on the charge preferred, as to the guilt or innocence of the accused, whom if deemed guilty he forwards for trial, and if innocent releases on bail, or recognizance, at his discretion.

This bulky report is not unfrequently accompanied by the original depositions of the parties, besides the abstract. It is evident that no such long report was intended by the framers of Regulation XX. 1817, vide Section XIII. Clause Second, but in the hands of an unskilled Mohurrer, it always becomes what is above described.

72. The *sooruthall*, even when faithful to facts, is of small use to the Magistrate, by whom it is seldom looked into with much attention. The chief object of it is to point out to the Officers, whose duty it is under the present system to take the depositions for subsequent production before the Magistrate, the kind of information or evidence to be given by such of the persons, prisoners, or witnesses sent in by the Police Officer, and in accordance with it the Fouzdarees Mohurrer shape their examinations. But in practice the *sooruthall* is not frequently drawn-up by the Police Officer to suit his own private views, and represents the case, not as it has occurred, but as he is desirous it should appear. The depositions and examinations are written studiously with a view to support the opinion which he desires should be adopted by the Magistrate, and can never be relied on as a trustworthy representation of facts. It has occurred to one Member of our Committee to receive at the same time, through an oversight, two *sooruthalls* of the same occurrence written by one Officer. In one the opinion given was that the parties were guilty, and the evidence was studiously shaped to favour the conviction. In the other the witnesses were made to give evidence exactly the reverse of that contained in the former, and the opinion recorded was of course in favour of the accused. These had been, as is supposed to be often the case, both prepared for transmission, with the intention of sending off the one or the other, according to the inducements held out by the parties concerned.

73. Though such signal detections can occur but rarely, yet every Magistrate is well aware that little or no dependence is to be reposed on *sooruthalls*, and they are treated accordingly, while therefore they are of little or no use in promoting the elucidation of truth, they furnish excuses for delay and waste of time in completing investigations, which is turned to account in fabricating false evidence, in tampering with prosecutors and witnesses, and in extorting money.

74. It appears to the Committee that no inconvenience, and probably much good would result from the discontinuance of these *sooruthalls*, and the adoption of a system something like that in use in the Calcutta Police. The Darogah or other Police Officer should make summary enquiry without recording depositions, and at the conclusion should merely send in the prosecutor, all witnesses, and prisoners, (if the case in his judgment require further investigation) with a brief summary of the charge, and list of the persons sent in to the Magistrate. If the case in his opinion be unsubstantiated, he should send in a similar list of the parties examined, stating shortly that on his view of the merits of the case, he has released the accused on bail, or on recognizance. In the latter case the prosecutor if he deemed himself wronged, might of course apply to the Magistrate for a trial of the charge. But the power of thus primarily releasing should, in the judgment of the Committee, be restricted to misdemeanors, and not extend to felonies and larcenies.

75. The second point to which we solicit attention, is the practice which at present exists, of judging of the state of a District, and the exertions of a Magistrate, by the proportion between acquittals and convictions. After the correspondence which has taken place between the local Government and the Court of Nizamut Adawlut, it would be superfluous in us to enter into any detailed discussion on the subject, but we deem it necessary to draw attention to the evidence of Mr. William Wilkinson, the late Magistrate and Collector of Koordah, taken before us on the 24th November last, which, as coming from a very distinguished Officer, in whom Government have always placed the most implicit confidence, appears to us entitled to great consideration. The following is the part of his examination to which we allude:

" 501. Do you think it is fair to judge of the state of a District, or the exertions of a Magistrate solely by the proportion of acquittals and convictions?—
 " Certainly not;—I consider it by no means a proper test or criterion. For
 " instance in the case of a serious disturbance or boundary dispute, it is frequently
 " necessary to apprehend a large number of persons to prevent further disturbances,
 " but who may be all eventually released,—merely to blame a Magistrate for few
 " convictions is, in my opinion, unjust, I consider the system of first sending for
 " the witnesses, and then summoning the defendants, to have been carried to too
 " great an extent, and might lead to great hardships to witnesses."

" 502. Have you reason to believe that convictions have been forced with a
 " view to make a good paper statement?—Yes, I have. I have heard it stated by
 " authorities, that prosecutors have been fined for false complaints, whenever the
 " prisoners could not be convicted, so that some conviction might follow "

" 503. Do you not consider that such a feeling is likely to have a bad effect
 " on the state of the Police?—I do, a Magistrate has now to consider whether a
 " conviction is likely to follow before he authorizes an offender to be apprehended.
 " In cases of Dacoity, a Dacoit may confess and name twenty others, all these men
 " should be apprehended with a view to ascertain whether evidence may not be pro-
 " cured for their conviction, and yet the Magistrate may be blamed if they are all
 " eventually released."

76. We are far from thinking lightly of the inconveniences resulting from indiscriminate apprehension without sufficient cause, and are of opinion that too much care cannot be taken to impress upon the Magistrates individually and collectively, and through them upon their Native Officers, the necessity and propriety of conforming strictly to the Law, and of exercising a sound discretion in that particular. But the main evil to be guarded against being, as every judicial Officer from his own experience is well aware, the natural inclination of a Magistrate to convict, rather than acquit prisoners whom he has himself apprehended, we much fear that any unfavourable inferences drawn by the higher authority as to the conduct of the Magistrate, from the proportion between convictions and acquittals, may lead to the infliction of greater injustice than that which the adoption of the collection in question was humbly intended to prevent. Still more is it calculated

to be injurious, if the procedure, noticed by Mr. Wilkinson in his answer to question 502, be of frequent occurrence.

77. We would further suggest for consideration, if this system is to continue, whether cases in which individuals are merely summoned to attend in answer to charges of a petty nature which are required to be written and preferred on eight anna stamp paper, should be included in the calculation. It is difficult to comprehend how the proportion between convictions and acquittals in such complaints, can form any just criterion of the state of a District, or the ability of a Magistrate, and we think that it would be better to specify all such cases in a distinct column, the proportion being restricted merely to the number of apprehensions and convictions. We would suggest likewise with reference to the petty complaints above mentioned, whether the rule alluded to by Mr. Wilkinson, of first sending for the witnesses before the attendance of the defendant is required, may not, in the generality of cases, lead to far greater abuses, and be a source of far greater molestation to unoffending individuals, than the course of procedure which has been superseded by it.

78. The third and last point to which we have to draw attention, is a practice generally resorted to throughout Bengal, to which our attention was first drawn by Mr. Adam in his examination of the 24th November last, who remarked that "the treatment of *bulmashes*, or people of bad repute, is on a very undefined footing — persons accused of no crime being regularly taken from their families at night, and compelled to sleep in the Police Station." This practice is more fully explained in the deposition of Mr. H. V. Bayley, taken before us on the 9th of the succeeding month, from which the following is an extract :

"692. What is the system followed in Midnapore regarding the surveillance of the Police over persons of bad character?—I believe that in that District and the neighbouring one of Hoogley particularly, where crime is very prevalent, to make convicted felons sleep in the Thannah in dark nights without a lock, when crime is most likely to take place. The greatest criminals in the adjacent villages sleep in the Thannah, and these, as well as those of a minor description at the distant spots from the Thannah, sleep in charge of the village Chowkeedars. This is the best check we have for putting down crime."

"693. Is this authorized by any Law or Regulation, or countenanced by the orders of Government or of the Nizamut Adawlut?—It is not, but every six-monthly Report of the Commissioner, or Sessions Judge, and of Government, enforce on the Magistrate the strict responsibility for the peace of his District, which cannot be preserved unless the known disturbers of peace be have this or some other equally effectual check placed on their proceedings."

"694. Then you consider that a Magistrate, in order to enforce such a check, is at liberty to resort to measures which are neither authorized by Law or sanctioned by the Supreme Authorities?—Although not specially authorized by Law or the Supreme Authorities, we are expected to act up to the before-

...and the custom has been taught to keep quiet."

Q. And you know whether this system has ever been officially brought to the notice of Supreme Authorities? Not officially brought to their notice, but every Judge or Commissioner must be made or less aware of it, who reads the Darogah's reports in Sessions cases."

" Q. How many men do you think on an average are confined in this way
" within the limits of a Police Station?—At a large Thana, or the nearest vil-
" lages; perhaps fifteen or twenty, at distant villages they are kept in the Chow-
" kedar's watch-houses, according to the number of theses living in the village, of
" which I can at once and off-hand give no exact calculation."

10. Thus it appears, that without any Law or Regulation for the purpose, without any authority from the Government, or the Court of Nizamat Adawlut, the Thannadars in parts of Bengal are allowed to exercise the power of shutting up at night in the Thanahs, and villages within their respective jurisdictions, herds of individuals, merely on account of low caste, reputed bad character, or because they may choose to think such a measure necessary to prevent a breach of the peace.

20. It would be a waste of time to point out the abuses to which such an assumption of power is unavoidably liable. It is sufficient to state our entire concurrence in the remark of Mr. Adam, that if this be necessary for the preservation of good order, what is now an illegal act, should be legalized, but that a good system of Police would not need such arbitrary violation of personal liberty.

of the proper course which we conceive should in all cases be observed as an individual citizen is to obey the law. If this had been done it is probable that the measure in question would have been shewn to be unnecessary; or if necessary it would have been authorized under proper regulations and restrictions.

[illegible]

We have now considered the Police of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, and have seen how they are managed under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Division, and how they are reported upon, as soon as we have received the Commissioner's report.

We have signed this Report, not because we agree in its contents, for we have made other proposals in a separate Report in the Appendix, but because, being overruled by the majority in respect to our own suggestions, we think those contained in this Report the next best.

J. L.
F. S. H.

18th August 1883

FREDERICK HALLIDAY

NOTE BY MR. HUTCHINSON, ALLUDED TO IN THE MARGIN OF PARAGRAPH

I have considerable doubts regarding these alleged defects. In the multiplicity of Commissioners there is wisdom—and though we did occasionally find an inefficient Commissioner-Superintendent of Police under the late system, by far the greater number was composed of distinguished and tried practical men, whose successful plans and exertions for the improvement of the Police of their respective Divisions, more than counterbalanced the deficiencies of the inefficient Officers. There existed a rivalry and emulation, the good effects of which not only benefited their own Divisions but extended their influence to the other Divisions; and it is said there was any want of concert or combination for general purposes. The exertions of any Magistrate could be overruled or unaided, and the Commissioners corresponded with each other on all important points. The statements periodically furnished by the Magistrates placed the Government in possession of their administrations directly, and the Government could apply to the working of the system for the purpose of improvement. Charles Metcalf entertained a very high opinion of the system, and it still prevails there.

I do not however mean to say that the employment of one Superintendent of Police must depend upon the individual. He must be acquainted with the localities of the crimes who perpetrate them, and places of refuge, and to concert plans for the best mode of detection throughout his jurisdiction. It is not in these circumstances and conditions that the system can be improved by one of the proposed changes.

APPENDIX A.

BEFORE leaving the Committee, I beg leave to record the following observations, Minutes by Mr. T. C. Scott.
less however with an idea that the limited experience I have had in Police matters will entitle them to much consideration, than that I believe it is the wish of Government that the Members quitting the Committee should furnish their opinions.

As the efficiency of the Police must depend materially on the Session Judges, Session Judges.
considering the duties now entrusted to those officers, it is equally fair and necessary that their responsibility should correspond with their powers of interference in the decisions of the Magistrates

In the discussions which have taken place on this point, the real question at issue appears to have been frequently lost sight of. It is not whether the Magistracy of a District would be more ably administered by the individual selected for that office discharging no other duties which I imagine no one would deny but whether with two persons possessing necessarily unequal experience the efficiency of both Departments, Fiscal and Criminal, would not be better secured by committing the control of both to the more experienced functionary and employing the second in subordinate duties, than by entrusting to each a distinct department. Office of Magistrate and Collector

My own opinion is, that when the aggregate duties of a Magistrate and Collector admit of being discharged by one officer, the union is desirable, and looking at the subject with the necessary limitation of disposable means as before stated, I think the practical working of the system will be found more efficient by adhering to the present union of offices than otherwise. A district might here and there be selected when the division might be advantageously made, generally however I think the reverse would be the case, while in some a total failure would be the result. The effect of the union on the efficiency of the Police has not been relatively injurious. In comparing it with the old system and not with what it should be, the present one labors under great disadvantages. The practical working of the union of the offices of Judge and Magistrate, was that the former was nearly entirely neglected, while the Magistracy was administered by individuals of considerable experience, who did little else. The practical working of the union of Magistrate and Collector, with the supervision exercised, precludes the possibility of any functionary pursuing such a course, and there is little doubt that the Magistracy has rarely received more than half the time of the presiding officer.

The abolition of the corporal punishment (the prison discipline remaining the same), has materially weakened the hands of the Magistrate. Regulation II. of 1832, irrespective of its effects on the comforts of the community must be considered as conducive to an increase of theft and burglary.

[1881]

The practical relaxation of the law requiring security from persons of suspicious character must also be adverted to. I might also add the comparative publicity with which the acts of the Magistrates are now scrutinised and canvassed. I am far however from disapproving of this, the caution and care it counsels must be beneficial to all parties, I allude to it only from the facility it affords of dragging forward some isolated case, and unfairly deducing from it general conclusions, which the actual state of things in no way warrants. These are some of the disadvantages with which the Magistrates have now to contend. I should regret if my motives in instituting the parallel should be misunderstood, it is far from my intention to endeavour to depreciate the able services of the functionaries of past times, at the same time I would maintain most strongly that the good work commenced by them in their successful contest with crime has been gradually going on, that as our administration has proceeded the more serious crimes incidental to a savage state have "pari passu" been disappearing, that life and property are yearly becoming more secure, the roads and rivers safer, and the unfailing test of improvement is discernible in the milder form in which crime now develops itself. Take that of dacoity for example, can any one doubt the difference between ten dacoities of former times and a similar number at present.

Should the offices of Magistrate and Collector remain in the same individual, assisted by a Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, I would recommend the latter officer being located in the interior of the District, with charge of that portion of the Zilla at the greatest distance from the Sudder Station. He should be under the Magistrate generally as at present, and with the exception of holding sales and receiving revenue, he would be competent to discharge the common duties of Magistrate and Collector. If the Magistrate was desirous of making a tour through the District, the Joint Magistrate might take his place and the Assistant the post of the Joint Magistrate the expense of the requisite Cutcheries, &c. would be trifling, and in a question of such great importance, the personal convenience of the functionary ought not to be allowed much weight. The moral security the presence of an European officer diffuses over the inhabitants of a District is very great, and I am confident that six months passed in this way would afford a young man more opportunities of becoming acquainted with the manners, wants and customs of the people, so indispensable to the proper discharge of his duties, than a much longer period passed at the Sudder Station.

Local Courts and
permeutendts

The establishment of local Courts, similar to the Moonwall, for the decision of petty cases, (the presiding officers of which might also be employed in making local investigations at the discretion of the Magistrate), is in my opinion a measure which should immediately be tried. The salary to be attached to this office, should be equal if not superior to that of a civil Moonwall. A general appeal should lie from their orders to the Magistrate whose decision should be final. If the selection and supervision of such officers were carefully conducted, I think it might be the means of striking a successful blow, at the general corruption and extortions of the Darogahs. Instead of attempting to bring up the Darogahs and persuade them that an honest course was the most profitable one, I would endeavour to stop their illicit gains by making it the interest of people not to give. By the institution of local Courts, a case might be decided in a day that now takes a week, and the

parties instead of having to go a journey of two days would frequently be at the Cutcherry in two hours. It is needless to point out how materially this would affect the profits of the Darogahs, derived from witnesses compounding for their non-attendance, and other similar sources of extortion. The natives are not backward in giving money, it generally however is regulated by the advantages they expect to derive or the annoyances they are desirous of avoiding by it.

The efficiency of the Darogahs will not be increased by their salaries being raised, neither is their present pay the principal cause of their dishonesty and corruption. It arises in a much greater degree, from the power they possess of annoying and harassing their neighbours in various ways, in no degree affecting the efficiency of the Police.

The least objectionable source of the income of Darogahs is derived from salamee, presents from the Zemindars and the subordinate Police, at certain periods of the year and which would continue to be received, whatever their salaries might be. Others are, threatening to apprehend, or apprehending and releasing, innocent persons and making the respectable part of the community pay for not being sent in as witnesses. The power possessed by the Darogah in this respect is very great. People of the most ignorant class are frequently forwarded to the Magistrate as witnesses to confessions, searching houses, &c merely because they cannot compound like their betters, for their absence. It certainly however is the exception of criminals owing their liberty to the Darogah being bribed.

I would increase the salaries of the Police as per margin,* more with a view however of introducing a wholesome system for the future than with the remotest expectation of stopping their receipts from some of the sources I have enumerated. As long as the power remains, the inclination will not be wanting

Darogah,	50
Zemindars and	
Mohuteras each	20
Burkandaz,	5

The principle of selecting Burkandazes with a view to render the Police Thannah sufficiently strong to quell any serious disturbance or popular outbreak, cannot in my opinion be introduced without greatly impairing its general efficiency. For practical purposes a Bengallee Burkandaze is commonly worth few of his fellows of the Upper Provinces, for one case requiring physical courage or strength, there are a hundred in which they are useless, and cunning and address are alone serviceable; it is precisely the case of the European Soldier and Sepoy. It might not be unobjectionable to have three or four Burkandazes at each Thannah armed with muskets, who, together with the treasury, jail and station guards, might form a kind of local corps under an uncommissioned officer, European or native more than this, I consider quite uncalled for.

The great object in organizing the Village Police is in my opinion to make the watch more independent of the Zemindars, which unfortunately is synonymous with the villagers themselves, for whose benefit the Chokeedars are retained. These Chokeedars are acquainted with every thing that occurs within their beat, but the information given to the Police is only that sanctioned by the Zemindar or his agents, whose general instructions are, "report nothing that can in any way be safely concealed." The Magistrate should be empowered to appoint to this office, or

confirm the nomination of the villagers, as might appear expedient.—He should also have authority for enforcing the payment of the wages of the Chokeedars.

Regulation VI of
1834.—Corporal punishment

I consider the repeal of this Regulation necessary to an efficient administration of the Police both as regards thieves and Chokeedars.

Regulation VI of
1834.—Darogahs prohibited from interfering in Burglaries and thefts without the Plaintiff's request or Magistrate's order

I do not think that any considerations holding out prospective advantages should induce the Legislature to cancel this Regulation. From my own experience I should say it had conferred a great boon on the community; I never heard a native unconnected with the Police speak of it in any other terms, and I never on the contrary met with a Darogah or his subordinates who did not exclaim against it as a blot on our administration. This conflicting evidence, which in fact proves the same thing, should not in my opinion be lightly disregarded. In a mere Police point of view its effects may be injurious, in protecting the people however we are bound so to shape that protection as to render the remedy *not* worse than the disease.

Law Proceedings

Since the introduction of the vernacular into our Courts of Justice, the delay occasioned in writing it, compared with Persian, has become a most serious inconvenience. I would make the decision of Magistrates in certain cases final, and admit *viva voce* examinations, an abstract of which, with the Magistrate's opinion and order, being alone recorded.

Perjury.

The offence of perjury should be made punishable by the Magistrate

In the subjective view we have taken of this crime, enactments have been framed, as if it were regarded in the same light by the governed. This is far from being the case. With them it is a vice sanctioned by public opinion. Among the bulk of the community, I do not think a person suffers in general estimation from having perjured himself with impunity, and that this is commonly the case is immediately apparent. To the extent that perjury prevails and which is admitted by all, I doubt if the returns would average annually three cases for each district. The state of the law in this respect is most anomalous. A Magistrate may imprison a person to the extent of six months for preferring a false complaint, the witnesses in the case however, who are generally as guilty, but not *more* so, must be committed for trial to the Sessions when the minimum that can be awarded is three years a sentence which in common cases is far too severe, with reference to the present state of native society and feeling. The powers vested in the Magistrate with regard to plaintiffs should be extended to the case of witnesses, and thus is a point which merits serious attention in ameliorating our Police administration.

In conclusion, I would only observe that I consider success would be extremely doubtful in introducing generally some of the changes recommended, more especially that of the appointment of *Foundary Moonsiffs*. A few districts administered by experienced Magistrates should be first selected, and if the result were, as I doubt not it would be, satisfactory, the system might be universally adopted.

Signed T. C. SCOTT.

December 11, 1837.

APPENDIX B.

BY MR. D. C. SMYTH.

1. As my immediate departure for England will prevent my taking any part in drawing up the final report of the Committee, I shall endeavour, as requested by my Colleagues, to throw together a few remarks for their consideration: I fear, however, from the multiplicity of private matters that are now pressing upon me, and the constant interruptions I am necessarily subjected to, that I shall not be able to accomplish the object I have in view, so clearly as I could wish.

On board the *Ernamal*, 4th Jan. 1838

2. In submitting these suggestions for the consideration of the Committee, I would wish to state, that that object has been to devise such a reform in the existing system, as may occasion the least degree of innovation, consistent with the improvements that I believe, indispensably necessary, in order to establish an efficient Police.

MAGISTRATES.

3. It has been stated with much truth, that "one of the most effectual expedients for ensuring good Government, is to assign a clear and well defined class of duties to every distinct set of public functionaries"—the writer further very justly observing, that "it is by these means much more readily and much more strongly received, when the business is done well, and when it is done ill." Coinciding most fully in these remarks, the first recommendation, in my opinion, that the Committee hold out to the Government is the necessity of separating the Magisterial from the Fiscal duties, throughout the lower and settled provinces, or in other words, of having a separate Magistrate and a separate Collector in every District in Bengal. Consider this division of labor to be indispensably necessary as a preliminary arrangement, and until this suggestion is carried into effect, I do not anticipate any improvement in the state of the Police.

* *Edinburgh Review*, Vol. XV, Page 96

SALARIES OF MAGISTRATES.

4. Having divided the duties, the next point, for consideration, is the amount of salary to be fixed as a remuneration for the Magistrates, and the general standing of the service from which these officers should be selected—I am inclined to think, that young and active men will make the best Magistrates, provided they are properly controlled by the advice and experience of their seniors—I would therefore fix the

salaries in three grades; viz, 1,200 Rupees, 1,500 Rupees, and 2,000 Rupees per mensem, and I would select officers who had been from five to twelve years in the country; increasing their salaries according to their merits and standing; and on no account shifting and changing them from one District to another. Nothing can tend so materially to destroy all confidence in the Magistracy, and to prevent the possibility of any improvement taking place in the Police, than the constant changes that were noticed by the Court of Directors as having occurred during the year 1834.

ASSISTANTS.

5. The next point of importance appears to be, the necessity of appointing young men when emancipated from College, to some particular District, and under some particular Magistrate, to learn their duty thoroughly. The present system of nominating them to a Division, and then allowing the Commissioner to send them to any District that he may deem proper, I consider to be decidedly bad, under such a scheme, it is impossible that a Magistrate can take an interest in the success of his Assistants after two or three months duty, partly performed in the Collector's office, and partly in the Magistrate's, the young Assistant is hurried off to some other District, to perform the same routine of duty, under other officers, and possibly under a totally different system. He thus gains no experience in any department, and is obliged to scramble on the best way he can; I know the young men feel, and complain of this—I would therefore suggest, that on leaving College, an Assistant be nominated to do duty for the first year under an experienced Magistrate, the second year, under an experienced Collector; and that the third year he be nominated as Register to a Civil and Session Judge, performing all the duties formerly assigned to the Registers of the Courts of Appeal and Circuit; this will enable him to become acquainted with the details of a Judge's office, and the general mode of conducting business, and I would here wish to remark, that unless the Members of the Civil Service have some judicial education of this nature, in a few years more there will not be a man qualified by experience to hold the office of Civil Judge.

NATIVE MAGISTRATES.

6 The Mahomedan Law Officer, and a Hindoo of rank and respectability, should be appointed under each Magistrate, as Deputies, on a salary of 300 Rupees a month, cases should be referred to them for investigation, as at present, and I would extend their jurisdiction, authorizing them to punish on conviction with a fine of one hundred rupees, or three months imprisonment in misdemeanours; and three months imprisonment with labour in felonies, subject to an appeal to the Magistrate whose orders should be final. In very large and extensive Districts, I am inclined to recommend the appointment of one or two Poudarry Moonshis, at distant and central points, in the interior, with powers to punish in cases of misdemeanour, with a fine of 25 Rupees or one month's imprisonment, and in cases of larceny, two months' imprisonment. I would fix the salaries of these officers, including their Establishments, at 150 Rupees per month. This system must however be gradually introduced, and carefully watched; otherwise it will become a

curse, instead of a blessing to the people. I would not permit the Foujdarry Moonsiffs to interfere with Police Darogahs unless specially ordered to do so by the Magistrate

DAROGAHS

7. The salaries of the Darogahs should be raised considerably, and I would fix them in three grades; viz 40 Rupees for the first five years, 50 for the next three years, and then 60 Rupees a month. No Darogah should be finally dismissed from the Government service, unless with the sanction of the Superintendent of Police. Proper Registers containing the qualifications and services of these officers, should be regularly kept up, and after 25 years service, or on receiving any hurt on the public service, incapacitating them from duty, they should receive a pension of one-third of their salary, for life. I consider the Thannadars system as requiring very little alteration, and believe that, under active Magistrates, it has worked admirably

BURKUNDAIRES

8. The Pay of the Police Burkundaires should be fixed at 5 and 6 Rupees a month, viz 5 for the first ten years, and 6 Rupees afterwards, and they should be entitled to a pension of two Rupees a month after 25 years service, or on receiving any serious injury in the public service. I am decidedly against a Military Police, When the Military are required, they must be called in, and act as a separate body altogether. The experience that our President, Mr. W. W. Bird, has had on this particular subject, will, I believe, at once lead him to coincide in this opinion

VILLAGE WATCH

9. In Districts where lands have been assigned to the village Watchmen, the Magistrate should have legal power and authority summarily to maintain them in the same, and to support them in all their rights and privileges; where money payments again have been agreed to by the village community, the Magistrates should have the power summarily to enforce payment, I am decidedly against any sweeping changes in the system of village watch; I would maintain strictly and in an efficient manner the system existing in each District; giving the Magistrates in all cases the power of selecting or of dismissing any watchmen who may be considered by them as unfit or disqualified for the situation, either from physical defect or from neglect of duty.

PROCEEDINGS.

10. All depositions in hearings of cases, should be recorded in the vernacular language, and I would also whatever is drawing out long Persian proceedings, recapitulating the subject of the evidence, and winding up with the detailed opinion, of the Magistrate, a short proceeding, agreeably to some prescribed form, merely stating that, on a careful consideration of the evidence of A, B, C, &c., and also of the defence, the prisoner was convicted or was committed for trial, would, I think,

be quite sufficient. In petty cases the evidence might be recorded in English or Persian, as the presiding Magistrate thought fit. I say Persian, because it is an excellent short hand, and by searching it altogether from our Courts, I feel satisfied that it will greatly retard the public business. Police, Darogahs, ought not to be suffered to send in such voluminous reports as is now generally the practice in all cases not of a very heinous nature the deposition of the prosecutor and a Suroothah, or recognition, signed by the villagers, would be quite sufficient. When the prisoners confess, their examination should also of course be taken at length by the Darogahs.

SESSION JUDGES

11. I think much relief might be afforded to the Session Judges, by permitting them, in such cases as they thought fit, instead of re-examining all the parties again in detail, merely to have the prosecutor, prisoners and witnesses, brought before them and so read over in their presence the depositions as taken before the Magistrate, asking any further questions that they might deem advisable, this plan might certainly be adopted in offences of a minor description. In cases of murder, dacoity, or of serious affray, it could not of course be followed. I am also clearly of opinion, that the proceedings before the Session Judges, ought to be recorded in the Persian language, every witness in the Sessions Court is examined exclusively in the presence of the Judge, and it matters therefore very little in what language the evidence is recorded. The introduction of the vernacular into the Session Courts in Bengal has already very seriously retarded the public business.

DEKOTY.

12. With a view to put down this atrocious crime, which is a real curse to the inhabitants of Bengal, I would suggest, that whenever dakoity was prevalent in any District, an officer be immediately deputed, as Special Commissioner, to try the commitments, with power to pass final sentence, extending even to death, without any reference whatever to the Court of Nizamat Adawlut. The prompt punishment of the offence, and the consequent terror that would be created in the breasts of the dekots, would, I feel confident, put down this offence altogether. The officer deputed would moreover be able to furnish Government with a full report of the circumstances that had, in his opinion, led to the prevalence of the crime.

ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

13. I would strongly recommend that all ~~the~~ Assistant Surgeons qualified by knowledge of the languages of the Law, and of Regulations of Government, and not engaged in trade, should be appointed as Joint Magistrates, on an extra salary of 200 rupees a month.

MILITARY OFFICERS.

14. In like manner I would suggest, that at all Military Stations such as Dacca, Moorsshedabad, Patna, Midnapoor, Hooghly, &c. &c. at least one Regimental

officer should be appointed as a Joint Magistrate, on an extra salary of 200 rupees a month, whenever the Regiment moved of course the officer would proceed with it, but while at the Station, and in time of peace, I see no reason whatever, why military men of talent and capacity should not be employed in civil duties. It would be a great encouragement to young officers to learn the languages, and to make themselves acquainted with the general rules of evidence, and the mode of conducting criminal proceedings.

CANTONMENTS.

15 At present there appears to be a most inefficient system of Police in Cantonments. The Superintendent of the Military Bazar, or some other duly qualified officer should, I think, be appointed Magistrate of the Cantonments, and be also Joint Magistrate of the District, on a suitable salary; he should likewise forward Statements of the business he performed, and of the crimes committed, to the Session Judge and to the Superintendent of Police, and his orders should be subject to an appeal to those authorities.

POLICE SERJEANTS AND SEBUNDEES.

16. In all Districts where there may be a large proportion of British subjects, the Magistrate should be allowed to entertain an European Serjeant or Constable, at Stations where military cannot arrive under three or four days, a Sebundee force of a Jumadar and fifty men, should be kept up for emergencies.

BAD CHARACTERS

17 Men of real bad character should always be kept under the surveillance of the Police, and in cases of necessity confined in Jail, until they can furnish good security. The system however of shutting up in the Thannahs and elsewhere, whole herds of persons, merely because they are of low caste, or have been once before convicted, which appears to prevail in some Districts, must at once be strictly prohibited; such a system can indeed only be justified, when the crime of dekonty is prevalent, and the most energetic measures are required to put it down.

BRITISH SUBJECTS

18 Some of the members of our Committee are, I believe, of opinion, that British subjects should at once be made amenable to the same Criminal laws, and to the same Criminal Courts as natives of India. In this opinion I do not, for many reasons, concur, so long as we are permitted to hold our present position in India, British subjects must be more or less a somewhat privileged race, they have been so from the earliest period of our rule, and the 3d and 4th of William the IV Cap 85, usually called the New Charter Act, declares that no Courts of Justice established by His Majesty's Charter, shall sentence to the punishment of death, any of His Majesty's natural born subjects or the children of such subjects. Justice however must be duly administered to the natives of India. Acts of violence and oppression must be put down, with the strong hand of the law, but British

subjects cannot be subjected, for a considerable period of time, to the local Courts of the country. By a very slight alteration in the existing law, I think that a plan might be devised for putting a stop to the acts of oppression that are now complained of, in a manner that would I believe give satisfaction, both to the native and to the European community. The scheme I would suggest is briefly as follows. British subjects should be made amenable to the local Magistrates, for all offences, in which a fine of 500 Rs. might be deemed sufficient, or in default of payment to two months' imprisonment, in a suitable place of confinement—an appeal from this sentence, to be direct to the Court of Nizamut Adawlut. Should any British subjects stand charged with an offence calling for a more severe punishment, but not extending to the penalty of death, the Magistrate should commit him to take his trial before a Special Local Court, which I would denominate an "European Court of Justice;" this Court should be nominated by the Supreme Government, and should usually consist of the Session Judge of the District, and of a Barrister selected from the Calcutta Bar, who should on these occasions, be deputed to the District, and be paid of course for this special duty. Before a Court, thus formed, every British subject committing any serious offence in the interior should be tried, and I would give this Court power to sentence a British subject to a fine of 1,000 Rs. or to two years' imprisonment, or to both. In cases wherein the two Commissioners might differ, or in cases calling for a more severe sentence, the record should be sent up, to a superior Special Commission, consisting of two Judges of the Supreme Court, and one Judge of the Nizamut Adawlut. The proceedings should all be recorded in English, and sworn interpreters should be employed. Such a Court would I believe command the respect, both of our British and native subjects. The Barrister would take care that all the forms and usual modes of conducting a Criminal trial agreeably to the English Law, were properly attended to, and that the law of evidence was strictly abided by, the Session Judge on the other hand, would see that all the points of the case that an English Lawyer might not, from want of local experience, be acquainted with, were brought clearly to light, and that the customs and usages of the natives were not overlooked. Such a tribunal I feel satisfied, would work well in practice. Any idea of placing British subjects under the same law as natives, ought, in my opinion, to be abandoned, until we have Judges receiving a more regular judicial education than at present is the case, and until we have a Code of Laws to which all persons whatsoever, as well Europeans as natives may, subject to such special arrangements as local circumstances may require, be subject, due regard being had to the rights, feelings and usages of British subjects, as well as of the people of India. It is to British subjects principally, that we must look for all the vast improvements that will it is hoped gradually take place in India, and it certainly is not good policy on the part of the British Government to irritate and disgust that class of the community, by suddenly and arbitrarily subjecting them to laws and proceedings that they seriously object to, while we can readily administer justice by adopting another, and I believe an equally efficacious, course.

APPENDIX C.

MINUTE BY F. C. SMITH, ESQ.

Superintendent of Police,

At the request of our President the Hon'ble W. W. Bird, Esq. I proceed to submit my opinion as to the points on which most stress seems to have been laid in our enquiries Police Committee

2. Nothing can be worse than the union. It is wrong in theory and evil in practice. I need not say anything more on this subject, as I believe out of Calcutta the opinions of the Service are unanimous. Union of the offices of Collector and Magistrate.

3. Considering the manner in which the Judges have of late years been selected from all branches of the Service with little or no reference to their competency for the duties, I am of opinion, that the Government have committed a great error in investing the Session Judges with almost unlimited authority. The consequence is already apparent in the prostration of the Magisterial powers, and in the numerous conflicting readings of the Law by the Functionaries. I recollect when the old Courts of Circuit existed that the Districts in which they were located, were always considered in the worst order, every District now is suffering from the same reason, and they are over-governed, over-managed, the Magistrate is a cipher, and the Session Judge is the Burra Sahib. The Magistrate at present bears all the responsibility without the authority requisite to support it, and I think the Session Judge should be held responsible for the peace of the District in co-operation with the Magistrate. Session Judges.

4. The only real advantage I can see in constituting Courts of Circuit in each District, is the early decision of commitments, but when it is considered that at present the Government insist upon at least three convictions to an acquittal the advantage is of no moment, because a person committed to trial ought to be certainly guilty, and a short delay is therefore of no consequence. This benefit therefore does not, in my mind, make up for the injury a Court of Circuit, next door to the Magistrate, does to his Police.

I would propose—

1st. That a Session Judge should not have the power to reverse the decision of a Magistrate, but should when he thinks the order erroneous, send the proceed-

ings but not the parties, to the nearest Judge, or if this be thought too dilatory a proceeding, I would propose—

2nd That the Judge's power of deciding without appeal miscellaneous cases, should be subject to this modification, viz. the Magistrate if dissatisfied, should report to the Superintendent of Police, who, after making due enquiries, if he consider the decision to be wrong, should certify his opinion to the Nizamut Adawlut, on which the Court should take up the case, and decide on its merits. This will prevent the Nizamut Adawlut from being troubled with frivolous cases or from being overwhelmed with appeals, and will yet constitute an efficient check upon Session Judges, who, having in some instances been appointed to the duty by removal from other departments in which they have failed to afford satisfaction, may be presumed occasionally to require in every department of their duty, the check of a superior Court of Appeal.

Reg II of 1832
Ditto of 1811

5 I am still of opinion that the abolition of corporal punishment was injudicious, was uncalled for, and unsuited to the character of the lower classes in India. I have conversed with all description of people, and I find them nearly unanimous on the subject. To the Domees, Doosads, Chumars, and other low castes, imprisonment has no terror, and is merely an exchange from a hut to a palace, from bad and insufficient to wholesome good food, from hard and exhausting labour to moderate work, about sufficient to keep the digestive organs in good order. The prisoners themselves consider that they are Company *ku noher*, and claim credit for the duties they have performed.

6 To the thief corporal punishment is severe and comes directly home to his feelings. To the Chokeedar it inspires activity, and for a time changes him from an idle, useless sagabond, to an intelligent, active watchman, nor is he more degraded in his own opinion or in others, by stripes than by imprisonment, he is in both cases equally a dhagy or marked man, while he escapes from the corrupting effect of associating for a time with the worst portion of the population, as is marked degraded a man in the eyes of those who know him as the person who bears the impression of stripes on his back. Moreover, the secondary punishments have entirely failed. A Chokeedar, if imprisoned, leaves the village unprotected, and if he is fined, the same result takes place. If he cannot pay, dismissal leads to the same result, because we get substitutes as bad as the others, and without the experience of the old Chokeedar. I have known in one District 600 watchmen dismissed, who would have been merely flogged formerly, and nearly 300 villages without any Chokeedar.

7. With respect to the prohibition to the Police not to investigate thefts and burglaries without the consent of the person robbed, I have found opinions to differ, but I think the general impression is, that while the Police is corrupt and lives by preying on the community, it is better to be robbed by the thieves than to be plundered and insulted by the Police; but that whenever the Police can be regenerated, then every offence should be thoroughly sifted and enquired into. I agree in this opinion, and so far my views have been on the subject modified and improved by travel.

8. If these moonisiffs would most likely be taken from the class which has furnished the District Moonisiffs, I found most people, and in particular the Natives of respectability, adverse to the creation of any more grades of Police officers who, they observe, would form merely another set to be paid and bribed by them. The Moonisiffs are generally considered corrupt, tyrannical and oppressive. It is the bad selection of the Native Judicial officers, and the belief that a good class of men cannot be found willing to serve in the Police, which makes me opposed to the proposed employ of criminal Moonisiffs. The Natives have no amor patrie, only amor bugie, if I may use the expression. Their long subjection to foreign Governments has rendered them careless who their rulers are. All they require is good government. In a word, they have a love for their village, and look upon the rest of the world as aliens. They see clearly the faults of their fellow citizens, and having no pride in their advancement, feel neither gratitude, nor gratification at their promotion to honorable employments. They see clearly that the late changes have only given them rulers of a lower standard, whose morality is loose, and whose honesty is doubtful, and consequently, instead of being pleased, feel disgust at the systematic want of justice which they now experience. They know that Appeal Courts have no terrors to the dishonest; nor provide a check to a dishonest Judge, and having but a bad opinion of the Native Judges, they feel anything but gratitude for the change of rulers. An appeal is in reality no effectual check to a dishonest but clever Judge. The Native Judges, (the Principal Sudder Ameen and Sudder Ameen) who reside at the station of the Judges, bear a tolerable character, but the Moonisiff are almost invariably complained of as corrupt and intriguing, they have many ways of committing injustice with impunity.

1st. In cases tried ex parte, they make a bargain with the person before they pass a decree.

2nd. In cases where the defendant is so poor that the decree against him entirely ruins him, if he cannot appeal, they decide according as they are paid for it.

3rd. In cases where it is certain an appeal will be made, they take money from both parties, and return to the loser. In this case they do their utmost to make out good decisions, and bring clever and shrewd, this is why so few cases are reversed. Appeals therefore do not in reality prevent bribery when the Judge is dishonest. It is only the honest Judge to whom an Appeal Court is a real check.

Such being my opinion formed not from theory, but from intercourse with the better classes of people in the Mofussil for the last 7 or 8 years, I consider it would be advisable to select Deputy Joint Magistrate or Local Superintendent of Police from the European community, until it is found by experience that the civil Native Judges have become popular and liked by the people over whom they are placed. Finally, on this subject I may say I approve of having new grades of Police officers, but I disapprove of selecting them from the class of the people from whom the Moonisiffs have been chosen.

Darogahs of Than-
nahs

9. It is the general opinion that the Darogahs should be better paid, not that any pay we could give them would make them honest, but merely more careful. It would at all events take away all excuse for dishonesty.

10 Under the present system by which Chokeedars get little pay at uncertain intervals, and are out of the pale of all efficient and summary controul, it has become a serious question and a matter of doubt whether the entertainment of Chokeedars be not waste of money. If the Police can manage the country without the aid and influence of the Zemindars, which never yet was successfully done, then we may, and had better make the Chokeedars paid Government servants; but if we cannot dispense with the aid of the landholders, we must continue the watchmen under their control. In those parts of India which are still under Native Government, or whither the Regulations have not extended, each village forms a regular republic headed by a Poteh or a hereditary Zemindar; the servants likewise are hereditary, such as the watchmen, the blacksmith, &c. Their payment consists of an assignment of 5 per cent. on the Revenue, besides a portion of land, there is no reason why, in all khas mehalas especially, we should not restore the hereditary village service, which will make us in great degree independent of the constantly changing auction-purchase land-holders. The claimants to each office still, with characteristic tenacity, claim their lost rights, and so many land still continues assigned to the watchmen. By gradually buying up all estates sold for arrears of revenue, we might in time restore the village communities whose downfall may safely be alleged as a chief cause of our failure in all Police arrangements.

Law Proceedings

11 It is quite impossible to carry on the duties of the Courts according to the present system with the vernacular language, which are, if I may be allowed to express myself, too proxy for our voluminous system of management, every paper which can be dispensed with should be abolished. This is one of the evils of abolishing Persians before we are ready for the measure, for the more we reduce our forms, the fewer will be the checks, and the state of the Police is such, that we cannot have too many provided they are effective. Our situation at present is this. The vernacular forbids the use of numerous forms, the character of our Police urgently requires all we can invent and make use of, efficiently.

Dacoity

12 The laws are sufficient to put down the crime, if the Courts would abandon that spurious clemency which, under the name of liberality, makes them lean unduly in favor of the criminals, forgetting that the release of criminals without punishment is positive injustice to the honest part of the community. I am inclined to think that the Magistrates might with advantage be empowered (as in Burglary) to punish all simple Dacoities unattended with aggravating circumstances, such as torture, or ill treatment, with 2 years imprisonment, and to 7 years with the sanction of the Sessions Judge, which sanction should be obtained by sending the Nudoo with a letter to the Judge. In all Dacoities attended with aggravated circumstances, such as beating, torturing, &c. &c I would have only one punishment, imprisonment for life, and where deaths ensue from ill usage, or other evils, the result of a Dacoity, every member of the gang should be executed, I would leave no discretion to the Nizamut Adawlut, as such discretion would be attended with mischievous consequences. Judges in India have a want of moral

courage; passing sentence of a forcible description when they entertain doubts; punishment of guilt, and acquittal if there be doubts, should be the rule to guide them.

13. The Nizamut Adawlut have set their faces against the imprisonment of **Bad Characters.** bad characters on demand of security. To such an extent have they carried this feeling that vagrants known to exist by plunder, are constantly released after 2 or 3 years imprisonment to return to their evil ways. There is a party of Sheamur-was or Jackal-eaters, notorious Dacoits, and noted for their cruelty, then torturers, and their ill-usage of women and children, who have lately been ordered to be let loose on the community of Moorshedabad contrary to the remonstrance of the Magistrate. The Police have to struggle with enemies from within and from without. Is it to be wondered at that it is inert, inefficient, and incapable? Finally, so degraded has the Police become that I know of Darogahs now in employ, who have not yet lost marks of the irons on their feet, and there is a District in which almost every Darogah has been in jail. The want of support or rather the active opposition the Police experience from its superiors, is the cause why the custom, nearly universal in Bengal, has obtained of causing all badmashes to sleep at the Police chokers, &c. The precaution is found efficacious, is not entered into the statements, and though illegal, must exist till the badmashes can be legally restrained, that is, till they may be imprisoned, and till they furnish security for their good conduct.

F. C. SMITH, *Supt of Police*

Calcutta, 30th April, 1833.

APPENDIX D.

(No 339)

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLICE COMMITTEE,

CALCUTTA

SIR,

As connected with the evidence given by me before the Committee over which you preside, I take the liberty of offering to your consideration an extract from a report lately made by me to the Superintendent of Police in the Lower Provinces.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J H PATTON, *Magistrate*

Zillah 24-Pergunnahs,

The 6th August, 1838

Paragraph 3, of a Letter addressed by the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs under date the 3d July 1838, to the Superintendent of Police L P

3 To render the Police of this country effective, it should be arranged in my opinion under two heads, the preventive and the administrative. I would apply the present Thannah and Darogha system with modifications to the former, and have a separate superior establishment composed of a Superintendent and subordinates for the latter. The Thannah establishment should be re-organized, rendered capable of offering substantial resistance if opposed, and be employed solely in watching and patrol. They should be provided with the means of locomotion so as to be available on emergencies, and be armed with pistols and swords and shields, in a Police jurisdiction of 25 miles I would employ a Darogha on 30 Rupees a month, a Mohurer and 5 Jumadars on 10 Rupees each, and 15 Burkundazes on 5. These should all be selected from the fighting classes of the natives, wear an uniform, and be accoutred for combat on all occasions of duty—a circuit of 5 miles should be traversed and retraversed by every Jumadar and his party, consisting of 3 Burkundazes and the village watchman, so that the whole extent of the jurisdiction should be visited by an armed body of the Police each night of the year. These nightly rounds should be performed by the Jumadars in succession, in order that the same party

should not patrol the same localities two nights consecutively. The news of the night should be communicated to the Darogha in the morning either verbally or in writing, and that officer should enter such report in his daily book for which work and other writing purposes the services of the Mahuter should be available. The Darogha should exercise a general control over the Tumadars and their subordinates, and communicate the intelligence of any outrage that may be committed without loss of time to the Superintendent. This officer should be considered the head of the preventive establishment. With regard to the administrative I would propose to have a Superintendent, qualified in every respect to preside over two Thannas with an officer situated in a central position between them. His salary should be 400 Rupees per mensem, out of which he should be required to keep an establishment sufficient for the discharge of the duties assigned to him, which should be the cognizance of petty assaults and disputes, not amounting to a serious breach of the peace and simple thefts, where the property plundered does not exceed 10 Rupees in value, and the parties accused are not village watchmen or old offenders. Europeans, Parsi Indians, and the Natives of this country should alike be eligible for the office, and I would require every nominee to the situation to execute a penalty bond and furnish security for good and faithful conduct previous to entering upon his duties. Appeals from the decisions of these officers should lie to the Magistrate and the culprits sentenced by them to imprisonment beyond 20 days should undergo their punishment at the Sudder Station, and be accompanied on their arrival there with the proceedings and record of conviction in order that no time may be lost in ascertaining the justice or otherwise of the award. Besides the exercise of this police authority I would require them to conduct all the preliminary enquiries into matters occurring within the limits of their jurisdiction, the cognizance of which is now vested with the Darogas, and like them forward chalmis, &c. I hope that I have rendered myself clear in specifying the relative duties I propose to assign to each establishment. My object has been to show the necessity of separating offices which are incompatible, and the union of which has in my mind tended to impede the efficiency of the Police of this country to a greater extent than is generally imagined. Moral acquirements and physical energy is a compound uncongenial to the Native character: for he who has the use of his head thinks it an insult to his understanding to employ his heels, and he whose excellence lies in the latter is rarely gifted with the perfections of the former, and until education and an intercourse with nations further advanced in the scale of civilization effect a revolution in the minds, the union of the powers required for the efficient discharge of the combined duties of the preventive and administrative Police may vainly be looked for in a son of British India. The above suggestions do not in some points coincide exactly with my views on the subject of Police matters as conveyed in my Report to the Commissioner of the 18th of Jessore Division, but they are the result of maturer deliberation and further experience, and as such claim perhaps more attention.

The Darogha

(True Copy.)

J. H. PATTON, *Magistrate*

MINUTE

Mr. Bakhday.

1. Without entering into questions of improvement or deterioration, we begin to be all agreed that the present state of Police is nearly as bad as Police can be, and that there is urgent need for effectual improvement. In the opinions expressed in this Report on the causes of the existing state of things, and in the measures proposed for its amelioration, I find myself unable altogether to concur.

2. The evils of the present system are thus summed up in the Report.

"For want of proper organization the system does not work as it ought to do. The Magistrates are overwhelmed, the Darogahs and their subordinate Officers are corrupt, the Village Watchmen are poor, degraded, and consequently worse than useless, and the community at large, oppressed and inconvenienced in various ways, are not only disinclined to afford aid to the Police, but in most cases, had rather submit quietly to be robbed, than apply to the Police Officers for assistance to apprehend the thieves or to recover the stolen property."

3. For these defects, the following are the principal remedies proposed by the Committee, and the nature of the remedies they suggest, will shew at once the causes to which, in the Committee's opinion, the defects are to be attributed. To separate the Magistracies from the Collectorships. To remove Magistrates less frequently from District to District, or from office to office. To appoint and locate in different parts of each District Deputy or Assistant Magistrates, with powers of original jurisdiction, nearly co-extensive with those of the Magistrates, but subject to the controul of those functionaries, to whom an appeal is to lie from all their orders and decisions. To increase the salaries of Darogahs, and to establish grades among them, as has been done in the case of Munsiffs, besides securing them from capricious removal from office; and lastly, to revise the Village Police, to assign to each Chowkeydar an adequate allowance, and to frame rules for their conduct, and that of the Village authorities to whom they are to be left, as now, subject

It will be observed, that the defects pointed out by the Report are radical defect they are such as militate directly against the very object of Police, and affect injuriously the administration of Criminal Justice.

A Magistrate who is overwhelmed, is for the purposes of the majority of Magistrates. A body of Police Officers corrupt in all its grades is more mischievous than no Police at all. The Watchmen, the very foundations of the system, we are expressly told, are "worse than useless," therefore they would be better away—and the whole

Police, we find, is abhorred and detested by the people who never apply for its aid and think those individuals most fortunate who by any circumstances are placed free from its influence.

I think this picture a little overdrawn. It is, however, in some places correct in every District, and it is quite true in any District in which the Magistrate for the time being, is negligent or inefficient. But it is the of the description be generally applicable to our Police, and I know not who will deny this to be the case, I cannot but think that some more searching and complete reformation is needed than that which the Report proposes.

6. The first and most prominent defect of our system, I take to be the union of Executive with Judicial functions, in the Magistrate. "There is no more important principle in jurisprudence," says a late writer on this subject, "than the separation of the Judicial from the Executive ministerial functions. The truth of the proposition is almost self-evident." If a law were to be made for uniting the duties of Judge and Sheriff, of Justice of the Peace and Constable, in the same individuals, it would not only be found impracticable to perform them properly, but the very attempt would produce the most ridiculous confusion. Such a scheme would certainly be scouted as absurd, as well as mischievous. But many of our readers are not perhaps aware that, at this time, the functions of the Constable, or Executive Officer, are actually performed by the Police Magistrate, to a considerable extent. Much of the Magistrate's time is occupied in advising and directing the Police Officer in getting up evidence—in shaping cases upon which the same Magistrate afterwards commits for trial, or summarily convicts. The Magistrate hears an *ex parte* statement, upon that statement he issues his warrant or summons to bring the offender before him. When the case comes on to be heard, there is perhaps not sufficient evidence to justify a committal, or bring the offence within some Act of Parliament, the prisoner is therefore remanded for further examination, [with probably an observation from the bench, that a week in gaol will at all events do him no harm], and the Magistrate therefore instructs the Officers what evidence should be hunted up in the meantime. The Police Magistrates, however, do not seem to be always so successful in obtaining the testimony they desire, for prisoners are remanded not once only, but twice, thrice, and oftener. This practice, which subjects persons to the misery and contamination of a gaol, before there is any evidence of their guilt, is much to be deprecated, but the gist of our present objection is to the interference of the Magistrate in getting up a case, in which he himself afterwards acts judicially, either by committing for trial, or summarily convicting. We hold that a Magistrate ought to have no previous knowledge of a matter with which he has to deal judicially, and that his functions ought not to exceed those constitutional duties which the existing Law defines clearly enough, viz. the conservation of the peace, by requiring sureties according to the terms of the commission, the investigation of offences for trial and committal of the offenders, the exercise of the power of summary jurisdiction under special statutes, and that of the judicial function at Quarter Sessions. We therefore entirely concur in the opinion expressed by several intelligent Magistrates, that the whole executive duty of

“ preventing and detecting crimes should be thrown upon the Metropolitan Police, and the Magistrates be confined strictly to the passive adjudication of the cases which the Police might bring before them. The catching the thief and getting up of evidence against him in the first instance, might, in an improved state of the Criminal Law, be delegated to a particular department of the Police, in the same way as in a later stage of the proceedings, it ought to belong to the office of public prosecutor.”

7. These remarks were written for England, but they apply with double force to this country. In England, a large majority of offenders are, as here, tried and sentenced by the Magistrates, but in the former country, the cases so tried are comparatively of a trivial and unimportant nature. In India, the powers of the Magistrates are much greater, their sentences extend to imprisonment for three years, and their jurisdiction embraces offences, which both for frequency and importance, are by far the weightiest subjects of the Criminal administration of the country.

8. The evil which this system produces, is twofold—it affects the fair distribution of justice, and it impairs, at the same time, the efficiency of the Police.

9. The union of Magistrate with Collector has been stigmatized as incompatible, but the junction of thief-catcher with Judge is surely more anomalous in theory, and more mischievous in practice. So long as it lasts, the public confidence in our Criminal tribunals must always be liable to injury and the authority of justice itself must often be abused and misapplied. For this evil, which arises from a constant and unavoidable bias against all supposed offenders, the power of appeal is not a sufficient remedy—the danger to justice, under such circumstances, is not in a few cases nor in any proportion of cases, but in every case. In all the Magistrate is Constable, Prosecutor, and Judge. If the appeal be necessary to secure justice in any case, it must be so in all, and if—as will follow—all sentences by a Magistrate should properly be revised by another authority, it would manifestly be for the public benefit that the appellate tribunal should decide all cases in the first instance.

10. It is well known, on the other hand, that the judicial labours of a Magistrate occupy nearly all his time, that which is devoted to matters strictly Executive, being only the short space daily employed in hearing Thannah Reports. But the effectual management of even a small Police force, and the duties of a public prosecutor, ought to occupy the whole of one man's time, and the management of the Police of a large District, must necessarily be inefficient, which from press of other duties, is slurred over in two hasty hours of each day.

11. I consider it then an indispensable preliminary to the improvement of our system, that the duties of preventing crime and of apprehending and prosecuting offenders, should without delay, be separated from the Judicial function; and for this essential improvement, the amendments of the Report do not provide.

12. The next great defect in our system of Police, is the want of centralization and of individuality, uniformity, and intercommunity of purpose and action.

13. Centralization, it has been justly remarked, "is the essence of a good Police," which to be really effective, should be as one body, actuated by one impulse, and by regular gradation, from the lowest Chowkeydar of a Village, up to the Superintendent General, connected with and controlled by one head. Our system has none of this. we have a Superintendent, of whom the District Magistrates may be looked upon as the immediate deputies, but since these deputies, besides being too numerous for direct controul, have by reason of other functions, other subordination, and other responsibility, than those of mere Police, and other superiors than the Police Superintendent, their connection with him is not close, constant, pervading, uniform, effective, but on the contrary imperfect, uncertain, distracted, varying, and inefficient.

14. Between the Magistrate and the next class of Police, the paid Darogahs, Jemadars, and Burkundazes of the Government, there exists a connection less complete than is to be wished, but still far greater than exists between any other two classes of the system. But the paid Police Officers of Government are at present, by their constitution, in organization and numerical deficiency, of small comparative importance, in the department to which they belong.

15. Between this class and the lowest, but on every account the most important class, that of Village Chowkeydars, the connection is wholly inoperative. Theoretically, these Chowkeydars are appointed, paid, removed, and controlled by the Village communities, subject at the same time, to an incompatible controul by the Government Police, and through them, by the Magistrate. Practically, they are sometimes controlled by the Thannah Officers, oftener the Villagers, frequently by neither. But for all practical purposes of Police, properly so called, they are by the anomaly of their position absolutely useless. They are, as it were, a class of Police Officers by themselves; they are connected by no effectual link with the rest of the system; and they have no intercommunity amongst themselves. The chain of subordination which, however imperfectly, does yet subsist from the Superintendent through the Magistrate, to the Thannah, Burkundaza, is here broken at once, and it is broken just where the true interest of Police require the most complete continuity. If the Chowkeydars are in fact in subordination to any authority, it is nominally to that of the Village communities, who, by nature and constitution irresponsible and inefficient, are thus interposed, at the most important link of the series, between the actual instruments of Police, and the authorities by whom they should be controlled.

* The force within the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Police is as follows:

Darogahs, ..	444
Mohuturs, ..	473
Jemadars, ..	580
Burkundazes, ..	6690

or 8196 men at an annual charge of Rs. 824,029 for an area of 119,013 square miles, and a population of 31,800,000, being one Police Officer to every 15 square miles and to 3600 inhabitants. The Police force of Ireland is one to about 675 inhabitants. The London Police, old and new, is in the ratio of about one to 366 inhabitants.

16. For this great defect, the Report provides no remedy; but while the imperfect connection of the higher branches of Police is to receive a slight amendment, the absolute disconnection of the lower branch, from all the rest; the interposition of the Village authorities, and the disruption of the chain of subordination, is left intentionally just as it was before.

17. Yet this lowest class which under the system thus to be perpetuated, has become, in the opinion of the most intelligent Officers, worse than useless, is by partition, by function, and by numerical force, by far the most important branch of the Police. I have not the means at hand of accurately calculating the numbers of the Village Police, but I believe I should not exceed the truth if I were to assume that the number of Phanreedars, Paks and Chowkeydars in the thirty-two Districts subordinate to the Superintendent of Police, would be, if all vacancies were filled up, and the force kept up to its proper standard, little short of 200,000 men. A statement which has been supplied to the Superintendent of Police for twenty-seven Districts, and which is obviously an under-statement of the real disposable force of Village Police, gives the number at 142,798, which, estimating the remaining five Districts at the same ratio, would make the whole force 169,243 men. I am satisfied that the real number of Chowkeydars in these Districts is much greater, and that it is in fact not at all short of 190,000 men. But I will be content to assume it at the safe estimate derived from the returns to the Superintendent of Police, viz. at 169,243 men, which, taking the pay or receipts of each Chowkeydar at no more than 3 Rupees per mensem, shews an annual cost to the country for this Establishment of Rupees 60,82,748

18. Now here we have a force of about a hundred and seventy thousand men taken, by a custom which so long as the name of Village Chowkeydar exists, will be immutable, from the lowest and vilest and most despised classes, drawing annually from the people in legitimate wages, not to mention irregular modes of taxation, upwards of 60 lacs of Rupees, under no practical control but that of irresponsible and ignorant communities, of whom they are by turns, the petty tyrants and the slaves, thieves by caste and habit and connections, totally disconnected from the general system of Police, unorganized, depraved, degraded, worse than useless."

19. "No preventive system," says the authority I have already quoted, "can be perfect, until a regular chain of communication, under one central authority, is kept up, throughout the whole Kingdom, and to this end a Commission has for some time been engaged in enquiring into the means of organizing a rural Police." It is to this end emphatically that I desire to draw the attention of the Committee now sitting here—it seems to me useless to talk of "centralization" and "organization," of "intercommunity of action" and "unity of purpose," while we leave this vast body of Police Officers, and this immense amount of taxation, to be misemployed and wasted, by the ignorant and inefficient hands of the village communities. In vain we "exalt," and "encourage," and "discipline," and "centralize," and "consolidate," eight thousand men, while we leave unaltered the organization of a hundred and seventy thousand—in vain will be our improvements in the petty minority on the surface of our Police system, our Superintendents and Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates and Thannadars and Burkundazes, while the great majority of our instruments are abandoned to another and an antagonist system, to other hands, and to other management and controul.

20. There are, as it appears to me, two distinct kinds of Police; the one rude and primitive, but under particular circumstances not wholly ineffective the other

polished and perfect, the result of civilization, and security, and increased facility of intercommunication: the one is the system of dispersion, the other of centralization. Whether in any given country or province, the one system or the other, be for the time most expedient, may fairly be a question for consideration, but in no country can they beneficially exist together. We may choose to support dispersion, or to introduce centralization, but dispersion modified by centralization appears to me to be a contradiction in terms. This however, seems precisely what the Report proposes. It has adverse principles to deal with, and it intends to employ them in conjunction, one portion of its plan is adherence to dispersion, the other, enforcement of centralization from the head downwards, the superior parts are to be on a refined model the inferior, but not less vital portions, are to be less humanized: the system is to be—

Woman to the want and fair
But ending foul in many a scaly fold
Voluminous and vast

21. The Report defends this system, on the ground of its tendency "to secure if possible the co-operation of the agricultural community in aid of the Police Establishments." This, it says, has been the subject of the present system, ever since 1793, and though it admits that it has signally failed; that no sort of co-operation has been secured in the experience of forty-five years, yet it is contended that this is not owing to the more obvious defects of the system, but "to our own neglect." No rules, it is added, "have been framed for defining the authority to which the "Police Officers" belonging to it (the Village Police) are to be subject, the duties "they are to perform, the scale of remuneration to be received, the source from "which it is to be derived, or the mode in which payment is to be enforced." If all these things be done, the Chowkeydars will be, the Report affirms, effective, and "co-operation" certain. But if a regularly organized Police be introduced, co-operation, it says, is destroyed.

22. Until, however, such a scheme as the Report contemplates be drawn up in detail, I may be allowed to question the possibility of laying down "rules of conduct for defining the powers and responsibilities of the Village authorities," by the mere enactment of which, the whole character of two hundred thousand Parishes is to be utterly changed for the better. Of such rules no sketch is given in the Draft—I am content, however, to suppose for the present, that, such rules can be framed as shall suit the desired end; that the Village authorities can, especially in Bengal, be named with precision, that when these authorities have been found, their duties can not only be defined, but their fulfilment secured, that when the remuneration of Chowkeydars has been fixed, the monthly payments can be enforced with punctuality, and without risk of mischief, from all and each of the 30 millions, upon many of whom, it will fall in fractions of cowries, that the Chowkeydars can be rendered thoroughly responsible to the Villagers by whom they are paid and appointed, and at the same time as thoroughly subservient to the interests of Police with which these selfish and ignorant Villagers are usually unacquainted, and to which they are always indifferent and

frequently hostile; that the office will be henceforth denied to the despised castes, or that if those castes still continue to execute it, they will no longer be despised; that Chowkeydars will no longer be "Haraes, Domes, and Dosads," or that Haraes, Domes and Dosads, will never more be thieves. All these and many more difficulties I will suppose surmounted—yet still I am unable to see how we shall arrive at our object—co-operation.

23. What is co-operation? It is, I suppose, the arising to the regular Police personal or pecuniary aid on account of private or public motives—as to the former motives, they need not, and indeed they cannot, be created by systems of Police; they are inherent by nature in all individuals, whenever they are injured in person, or in property; and they will always, we may rest assured, be exerted, unless their exertion be opposed by some strong counteraction, sufficient to overcome the desire of redress, or the thirst for revenge. For public spirit, it is the fruit of civilization and refinement. It is not to be looked for from improvements in the state of Police, though undoubtedly its appearance is likely to be retarded by the same causes which prevent private motives from producing their natural effects. But in this country no robbed villager and no public spirited individual, if there be such, is hindered from prosecuting by the Village Chowkeydar. The hindrance exists in other and well known causes,—in the rapacity of the unchecked Darogha, in the extortion of the harpies of the Court, and in the distance and delays of the tribunal itself. How the "revision" of the Village Police intended by the Report, would in any shape remove these hindrances, and thereby foster either the public or private spirit of prosecution, I confess myself unable to imagine. There is no connection, that I can see, between the cause proposed and the anticipated effect. The Report proposes to ensure co-operation by maintaining the Village Police, but surely it behoves us to shew, in what way the Village Police encourages co-operation, and how the one is, as is affirmed, dependent on the other. If the Village Police has at present any effect on co-operation, it is more probably an adverse than a favorable effect. For the idea of defilement and degradation, of uselessness and inefficiency, which certainly among the great body of the people, attaches to the Chowkeydars, is very likely transferred by a natural process from the Village to the general Police, and the whole system is contemned, because a vast portion of it is justly despised. Surely the true encouragement to co-operation, is in an active, a well-regulated, and an efficient Police, and in speedy, cheap, and certain administration of justice. If the introduction of a regular and connected chain of Police, and the abolition of the Village Police, be, as I am quite certain it is, and as the Report seems not altogether to deny, the true road to the first of these modes of encouragement, it is clear that the co-operation sought for, will not be attained under the plan suggested by the Committee. For the sake of co-operation, the Report would apparently dispense with a certain portion of efficiency. But I say that co-operation will always be in proportion to efficiency; and if there be much of one there will, by the constitution of human nature, be a very sufficient quantity of the other.

24. If then the preservation of the Village Police upon any thing resembling its present footing will not only be of no effect in securing co-operation, which is the

only advantage claimed for the plan in the present Report, but will even, by preventing the establishment of a really effective Police, tend to prevent co-operation, the question between this Report and myself may be considered as decided in my favor. But there may be other arguments than that used by the Report, in favour of consigning the Village Chowkeydars to the management of the Village communities, and it will be well therefore to examine them carefully, and to ascertain if they have any real weight.

25. One of these arguments is that the management of the Chowkeydars by the villagers is a step towards municipal self-government, that it will interest the villagers in the working of the Police generally, and teach them by degrees to depend upon themselves.

26. Some argument of this sort will, I have no doubt, be used in England, when the Commission to which I have already referred attempts to extend to the Provinces the benefits of a consolidated system. The antiquated and useless and isolated Watchmen or Constables of Villages will be extolled by the exclusive and ignorant "village communities" by whom they are governed, as admirable engines of Police, the Commission will be assured that they only want to be "revised" and "regulated" to form an effective body, and that any thorough alteration of the system will hinder the progress and perfection of municipal self-government, and prevent the agricultural population from learning to depend upon themselves.

27. What answer will be given to these arguments, when used in England, it is needless to enquire. In this country, it seems sufficient to reply, that such imperfect institutions as did once exist in the village communities, were the result of tyrannical and grasping Governments, which in India, as elsewhere, drove the people, already selfish from the effects of oppression, to fence themselves round with exclusive and narrow municipal systems, of which it was the necessary and distinguishing feature that each community should be wrapt in itself, and have no interests in common with its neighbour,* that this system having been already broken down and almost annihilated in the Provinces to which our investigations relate, is not likely again to be resuscitated by the operation of the easy and secure rule now existing over them. that if municipal institutions be beneficial under a liberal and civilizing Government, it can only be when the people have considerably advanced in knowledge and refinement, and the exercise of sound principles of action, and that such institutions among a rude and semi-civilized people, living under a good and improving Government greatly in advance of them, are rather likely to check than to facilitate the progress of general amelioration. that, at any rate, the appointment and the government of local Police are by no means necessary to the existence of self-governing municipalities, but even where they have longest been co-existent with them, as in the City of London, it is found absolutely indispensable in the course of Police improvement entirely to separate the one from the other that even if it be conceded that municipalities should administer a local Police, it is but reasonable to allow the municipalities to be formed before such administration is made over to their hands; and that whether there be or be not any truth in the supposition that by allowing imaginary communities to misgovern a Police they

* See on this subject an article on the Government of India in the Revue No 109, for April 1832.

will thereby acquire a facility in well-governing themselves, sixty lacs a year is at all events a monstrous price to pay for the lesson, and hugely disproportioned to the chance of proficiency

28 By those who advocate the Village Chowkeydarce system, I doubt if the importance of the subject is fully apprehended. It amounts not to making over to village management a small and unimportant part of our Police but to resigning into hands professedly incompetent, almost the entire department nor is this the worst, for while this large power of Police is thus frittered away in detached portions, and rendered generally useless, any inherent virtue which the system might possess is suspended, if not destroyed, by tacking it to a small branch of Government Police, depending on totally different principles. Either the Village communities are competent to manage a hundred and seventy thousand Police men, or they are not. If they are competent, they should forthwith be vested with the management of the remaining 8000 men. But if they be not competent, they should have the management of none

29 The direct controul of executive details by "communities" has always, even under the most favorable circumstances, failed of success. In such a country as India, it is morally certain to fail. If the Committee had now a sum of 60 Lacs of Rupees, annually placed at their disposal by the Government for any executive purpose, how many of my colleagues, let me ask, would consent to commit its administration to village communities? If again the Committee had, for forty-five years, allowed this vast sum to be mal-administered by village communities to the public detriment, would they, after consideration and retrospection, continue to permit such mal-administration? Would they authorize it? and applaud it? and perpetuate it? certainly they would do no such thing. Yet this is precisely what the present Report proposes to do. 60 Lacs of Rupees are now in our hands, to be administered for the public good these sixty lacs have been annually mal-administered by village communities for the last forty-five years to the public mischief shall we continue this? ought we not thoroughly to reform it? there can I think be but one reply

30 Having now disposed of such arguments as I have ever heard in favor of leaving the Village Police system in its present state, having shewn that the system now in use not only does none of the good attributed to it, but in fact produces much absolute evil, and having demonstrated that the management of Chowkeydars by village communities interferes with the principles of consolidation, and centralization, upon which alone an effective Police can ever be founded, I return to my first position, that the defect in our system which is produced by the absence of these principles, as well as of the principle of the separation of Judicial and Executive functions, must be remedied by their gradual introduction and application

31 The first step in improvement must be, as I have already stated, the disjunction of the Judicial and the Ministerial offices. Such a system for the administration of justice as I have imagined for this country, would consist of an establishment of Judges of first instance, paid as Sudder Ameens, but rising

by merit to higher grades of pay up to the salaries of Principal Sudder Amceens. They should be located in the different districts, according to circumstances, either one in each Thannah, or one to two or three Thannahs, and should try original cases, civil and criminal, the former to any amount, the latter up to a certain extent. From these Judges there should be an appeal in civil and criminal cases to European Judges at the Sudder Station of each district, who also should try originally with or without the assistance of juries, criminal cases of the higher degree, beyond the jurisdiction of the Local Judges. From these tribunals there should be in all civil cases, and in criminal cases *originally* tried by them, an appeal to the Sudder Court at the Presidency.

32 All this I am aware is matter not for our consideration but for that of the Law Commission, but the connection between Police and Judicial establishments, and the Law of criminal procedure is so close, that the one cannot be considered without some reference to the other, and no Police system that the wit of man can devise will ever be really efficient, until by the erection of competent local tribunals we deliver the people from the absolute denial of justice inflicted upon them by the distance and inaccessibility of the tribunals. It is proper therefore, in proposing a system of Police, and Police procedure, to shew that I have not been without a definite idea of a Judicial establishment to which it is to be subsidiary, and I am quite certain that though my particular establishment may not be created, something not very dissimilar to it must in the progress of events before long be resolved on.

33 My Police establishment for the thirty-two districts* under the Superintendent of Police, should consist of one Superintendent General, 32 Sub-Superintendents, one to each district, 32 Assistant Superintendents, 888 Inspectors, one to each Thannah, 888 Sub-Inspectors, one to each Thannah; 4440 Jemadars, or five to each Thannah, 66,600 Barkundazes, being 75 to each revised Thannah. The whole under one organization, and in strict and entire connection with and subordination to the Superintendent General. The cost of this Establishment would be as follows:

* 23 Magistrates
9 Joint Magistrates

The actual number of Barkundazes is 444, some of these jurisdictions may remain at their present extent and some must be subdivided into two or more jurisdictions, --on the whole it is a liberal estimate to suppose that the number of Thannahs would be doubled.

The efficiency of the plan would be much promoted if four Commanant Officers were appointed under the Superintendent General, each of these Officers would control under the orders of their superior eight Districts, would constantly be moving about in them, and would closely superintend the proceeding of the District Superintendents. The salaries and establishments of these four Officers which would be I suppose at a pace of Rs. 1000, would be an addition to the Civil List of which more hereafter.

Superintendent General (on the next vacancy) with travelling allowance per annum, 12,000

Establishment for Superintendent General, including Amlah, travelling allowances and all contingencies, 20,488

34 Local or Sub-Superintendents in grades, with salaries as under to include as above, all charges —*

2 at 800 per mensem,	
4 at 700 Ditto,	
5 at 600 Ditto,	
6 at 500 Ditto,	
7 at 400 Ditto,	
8 at 300 Ditto, . .	1,97,200

35 28 Assistant Superintendents, being one to each of the large Districts, at 200 each, 55,200

Carried over, . . . 3,14,888

Brought over, . .	3,14,888
9 Assistant Superintendents, being one to each of the smaller Districts, on 150 per mensem each,	16,200
888 Darogahs or Inspectors at 120 Rupees per mensem each, including all charges,	12,67,200
888 Sub-Inspectors on 25 Rupees per mensem each,	2,66,400
4440 Jemadars (being 5 to each Sub-Inspector) at 10 Rupees per mensem each,	5,28,200
66,600 Burkundazes (i. e. 75 to each Thannah) at 5 Rupees per mensem each,	43,82,000
Total Rupees	67,74,888

To provide for this expenditure we have the following resources

Proposed allowance by Government for the Office of Superintendent of Police, including Amlah, &c at least, .	62,488
Present cost of Thannah Establishments,	6,23,629
Proceeds of a Police commutation tax to be imposed according to a scheme hereinafter explained, being at the rate of 3 Rupees per mensem, for every Chowkeedar whom the Zemindar or the Villagers do entertain or ought by law or custom to keep up, being for an estimated number of 169,243 Chowkeedars in 32 Districts,	60,92,718
Total	67,78,865

34 Such a Police force, which would be in the ratio of one to every 113 inhabitants, (that of Ireland being as one to 875) would, from its composition and graduated organization, be capable of complete control, and would at all times and under all circumstances be entirely in subordination to its head, the Superintendent General. The mode in which the great body of Police would be employed or distributed would of course vary as the circumstances of the several Districts might suggest, or the growing experience of the heads of the system dictate. Generally, however, I should suppose that the Local Superintendant of each District would station at his head-quarters a portion of his constabulary force, keep it according to rules to be provided, and as suggested by the Right Honorable the Governor General, under a certain loose or semi-military discipline, and from time to time so relieve from it the different Thannahs as to cause the whole body to pass periodically under his own inspection and personal command. At the Thannahs a similar system would be pursued, and four out of the five Jemadars would, with a complement of Burkundazes, no doubt be stationed by regular relief and roster in different subdivisions of the Thannah jurisdiction, from whence again it would probably be found expedient to station by similar relief and roster one or more Burkundazes in different towns and villages. These Burkundazes would either on the complaints of individuals, or on their own knowledge of the occurrence of crimes, transmit intelligence to their Jemadars and through them to the Inspector, and upwards to the Local Superintendant. Meantime at each grade of the series, the several

Officers of Police, including the local Superintendant, would, with promptness in proportion to their vicinity, be busily employed in investigating the charges, in apprehending the criminals, in tracing in cases of theft or robbery the property, and in securing the ultimate detection and punishment of the crimes for which end they would present the cases for trial according to their nature, either before the local Judicatures which I have supposed would be erected, or before the Judicial Officers at the Sudder Station, and at either Court prosecute them to conviction to the best of their power. The local Superintendants [the essential condition of whose office would be constant locomotion within their jurisdictions] would exercise a continual and searching controul over their subordinates, and be subject themselves to a similar supervision, and as it is a part of my plan that each Officer above the grade of Jemindar should have full powers to try and decide summarily all complaints of malversation preferred against any of his subordinates, subject only to one appeal to the Officer next above him - no serious abuses could, by possibility, long remain unexposed, unpunished, or unremedied.

35 There would be at hand under this system every conceivable means of enforcing or inducing good behaviour and of ensuring success. The pay would be good, the discipline, through the different heads, sufficient the supervision incessant the detection of malversation imminent, and its punishment certain while on the other hand the objects of honest ambition would be numerous and attractive and the reward of exertion sure and speedy. In detail, the closely exercised controul would prevent the occurrence of petty oppression, but accustomed to discipline and habits of obedience, the whole force would be capable of ready and rapid combination, would be powerful in masses, and if composed as it should be, of picked and well armed men, would on almost all occasions of riotous assemblage supersede the employment, so much to be deprecated, of the regular troops of the line. * Indeed it is a most important consideration that the organization of such a Police force would enable the Government to dispense almost entirely with such military stations as are remote from our frontier or from hazard of external hostile aggression. Surely, if it be reasonable to expect success from any imaginable scheme of Police, it may be fairly expected from one which like this is almost powerless for evil and very efficient for good.

* Had such a force existed the other day at Calcutta the Superintendent of Police without very materially increasing the Police strength of the neighbouring districts might, with great facility, have mounted in that place of less than 5000 Burghers with their complement of officers

36 The Police Commutation Tax to which I have alluded, will not only be very easily raised, but will be a direct boon to the people on whom it will be assessed. It has happened to me, and I dare say it has happened to others, to be solicited by Zemindars to allow of their paying monthly into my hands the amount of the regular wages of the Chowkeydars on their estates. Chowkeydars who are paid by monthly wages are always irregularly paid and sometimes not paid at all. They are therefore constantly in the habit either for the bona fide realization of their just dues, or perhaps as often to annoy Villagers who may have offended them, of applying to the Thannah Darogahs for aid in the enforcement of their demands. The Darogah on these occasions refers to the Magistrate, who has no resource but to direct the Darogah to comply and as this can only be done by deputing a Burkundaze to cause payment by the Villagers to the Chowkeydar, I need scarcely add that every occasion of this kind ends in oppression and extortion, and that the Burkundaze and Chowkeydar between them manage invariably to levy double as much as the true amount of even the most just arrear. There is not a Zemindar in the country who to save his tenants and himself from this annoyance and loss would not gladly compound for a regular monthly payment to a responsible officer, and willingly consign the payment of the Chowkeydar's wages to any hand that would free him from this plague. Of this readiness to compound, my plan merely takes the obvious advantage. Where the Zemindar was unwilling to undertake the duty, I would collect the Chowkeydars' wages through the Government Officers, where (as would almost invariably be the case, the Zemindar consented to the measure, I would, under proper checks, collect the tax through him, securing by simple rules the prevention of extortion and abuse.

37. As to the case of Chowkeydars who are paid by assignment of land, we have merely to consider that this mode of payment is so manifestly rude and

insufficient, that even if the Village Chowkeydaree system be left as it is, it must necessarily be commuted to payments in money. The quantity of land assigned to a Chowkeydar is always small, and its quality generally bad even if it were not so, the remuneration derived from it is wholly uncertain, and in as far as it may depend on the personal exertions of the Chowkeydar himself, of which every hour is a deduction from labour in his proper calling, it has a tendency to make the pay vary inversely as the amount of professional activity. A good Chowkeydar must neglect his land. A good cultivator must neglect his Police duties. Again, the system of payment by land tends to create a hereditary tenure of office the son succeeds to the fields fit or unfit he succeeds also to the Chowkeydarship. Or if the land be made to shift from hand to hand, or from family to family, with every change of incumbency, it is quite certain to deteriorate in value and to become less and less adequate to the occasions of each succeeding watchman. Further, there is no criterion by which, on the frequent complaints of insufficient assignments, a correct decision can ever be made five beegahs here are more valuable than ten beegahs in another place ten beegahs in unskilful hands may be less profitable than five to a good husbandman. If crops fail crime is likely to be rife, and the utmost exertions of the Chowkeydar to be constantly needed, but the failure of crops makes the Chowkeydar a beggar, in other words it makes him a thief and he joins the enemy when his assistance is most urgently called for by his allies. This must be remedied under any circumstances sooner or later I propose to do it at once. Where the land is a deduction from the assets of an estate, it should be forthwith re-annexed to it, and the usual money wages of the Chowkeydars collected as in the former case, by the Government Officers, or by the Zemindar where the land, as in Hooghly, is the property of Government, it may either be added as before to the estates of the Zemindars, or it may be sold to the best advantage and the interest of the proceeds applied to the payment of the new Police. Under neither system will there be any difficulty, and under neither need there be much delay.

38 It is however no slight advantage of the proposed change that it may be introduced gradually, and by as slow degrees as may be thought requisite. This is in fact the mode in which it should be introduced. A few Districts should be selected and the commutation made. If it fails, there is no great harm done, and the old system may at once be reverted to. If it succeeds, it may be gradually extended to other Districts, and I should suggest as the fittest for the first experiment, the Districts of Hooghly, Nuddea, Beerbhoom, Bancoora and Burdwan.*

* The Village Chowkeydaree system has an advantage in this that it is elastic and easily extended or contracted. New villages set up by the Zemindar are added upon by the Village Police, and appointed Chowkeydars. If a village disappears or is depopulated the number of Chowkeydars is diminished in proportion.

But this quality may very easily be given to the new system by providing for periodical revision of the number of Police men compared with the population of each Thannah.

39 It is fitting that large towns which commonly pay nothing towards the Chowkeydaree Establishment, should be assessed, by bringing them under the operation of Act No. XV. of 1837, modified so as to suit the new system of which they must form a part. The amount of assessment thus realized would be added to the general fund, and the Police Establishment proportionally increased.

40 The Report makes no proposition regarding River Police, a branch of the system in this country assuredly of great importance.

The information which I possess on this difficult subject is not so certain as I could wish. Returns of River Police Establishments have been made to the Superintendent of Police by a large majority of the Magistrates, and a similar return has been rendered by the Civil Auditor. But these have many discrepancies which it is impossible to reconcile without referring to the Zillah Magistrates, for which time is wanting and I must endeavour to make the most of what is before me.

41 I think I shall not be far from the truth if I state the present River Police Establishments as follows.

42. It will appear from this statement that the River Police is at present very unequally distributed. Some Districts largely intersected, or bordered, for a considerable distance, by rivers, have guard boats, others equally in want of them have none and of those that have boats, the allotment seems to proceed upon no settled or reasonable system. In Patna there are five boats, with six Burkundizes, for all In Shahabad, which requires boats as much as Patna, there is only one. But that one has five Burkundizes. In Sarun, which certainly has equal wants with Shahabad, there are no boats, and there are none in Monghyr, where surely they must be necessary. Moorshedabad greatly requires a River Police, yet it has only two boats they are however well manned, each boat having, besides a large crew, one Jemadar and ten Burkundizes, though it is not easy to imagine how they are stowed. But the neighbouring District of Rajeshahye, which is at all times the resort of an immense number of boats of all descriptions passing to and from the eastward, which is the high road of water communication between the Presidency and a great number of Districts, including the whole of Assam, and which, during the rains, is over its greatest extent, a surface much more of water than of land, and by common report greatly infested with river pirates, has not a single Guard Boat. Dacca, though much intersected by rivers, can hardly require more Guard Boats than its neighbour, Mymensing yet the former has nine, and the latter none. The Soonderbuns navigation, the constant resort of boats passing to and from the eastward of the Presidency, and the grand outlet of all the traffic between Calcutta, and the Districts of Jessore, Furreredpore, Barrisaul, Dacca, Mymensing, Tipperah, Sylhet, Noacolly, Chittagong, and Assam, and indeed during a portion of the year between Calcutta and all the north, west, north-west, north-east, and eastern Provinces, is notoriously a nest of Dacoits and Thieves. The Soonderbuns embrace portions of Jessore, Barraset, and Backergunge, of which Districts the entire River Establishment is only —

Jessore, .	3 Boats
Barrisaul,	2 „
Backergunge, .	2 „
	<hr/>
Total,	7 Boats

of which the chief part must, by the necessities of the Districts, be employed otherwise than in the Soonderbuns. Imperfect therefore, as my information is, I think I am warranted in assuming that a reform is here greatly required, and that in this particular Department the Government must be prepared to undergo additional expense, an expense however that can never be grudged, for so important an object as that of giving security to the great highways of water communication.

43. It is of course out of my power, until in the possession of more complete details to particularize a plan for improving this branch of the Police, especially surrounded as it is by great and peculiar difficulties, but it is nevertheless possible to lay down with sufficient precision, certain definite principles upon which as information is procured, the Superintendent of Police may act in introducing improvement in detail.

44. At present the system is with few exceptions, to attach to certain Thannahs such Guard Boats as are kept up in each District, at these Thannahs they are

under the immediate orders of the Darogah, and in practice, I believe that the boats lie for the most part idle and half manned at the Thannah Station, to the pecuniary benefit of the Darogah and the Manjee, and that if they are ever called into use it is as often for the private convenience of the Darogah as for public purposes, and much oftener than either for objects of depredation, extortion, or indeed for actual Dacoity *

I have been told on good authority that the worst Dacoits in the neighbourhood of the Sunderbans, centre their night Guard Boats and I have been warned never to approach near one of them if I could possibly help it

45. Apart from this,—this detached mode of employing the boats prevents all salutary combination and all well-organized patrol, and a set of boats which by well arranged and well connected distribution, might give security to a long line of communication and traffic, are either lying at the same time idle at distant Thannahs, or cruising at one time, and without any definite purpose, within one confined space in which perhaps no patrol is needed

46. To the protection of River communications the same principles should I think be applied as have succeeded on roads. If a land patrol is established on an extensive line, it is found necessary to divide the road into sections, over each of which a head Officer is placed with an adequate number of Police men; these last under the orders of their superior keep patrolling their own section in both directions from their head-quarters, which is the centre of the section, and at either extremity of their beats they come into communication with the next parties of Police belonging to the two neighbouring sections on the right and left of the line

47. The application of this system to Rivers is obvious. Each squadron of Police should consist of five boats, of which one should be allotted for the accommodation of the Inspector, and the others may be the usual kind of Pansways now employed as Guard Boats. The four Guard Boats should be constantly cruising two on either side of the centre, and while one boat is plying towards the extremity, the other should be at the same time returning from the extremity of the section towards head-quarters, which as far as practicable should be in the immediate vicinity of a local Judge

18. The Cost and Establishment of each Section I should estimate thus

Manjee,	. . . . .	7
10 Dandies,	50	
1 Jemadar,	10	
4 Baul mudauzes	21	
	<hr/>	91

Multiply by number of Beats, 5

Add—one Inspector to each squadron with the Establishment, 120

575

12

6900

Add Interest 6 per Cent. on Cost of Boats* and wear } 200

and tear and repairs at 13 per Cent., }

* * * Each Squadron 7109 per annum.

* The Pansways would cost 260 Rs each the Inspectors boats 300 Rs

49. Taking the main lines of river communication; and stationing one squadron to about every hundred miles, the distribution of the River Police would be nearly as follows

LINE OF COMMUNICATION	Round Number of Miles	Number of Squadrons	Annual Expense
From Calcutta via Moorshedabad and Sootee to Buxar,	600	6	12,654
From the junction of the Sootee and the Ganges South Eastward to the extremity of the Furrerdpoore District on the Pudda,	200	2	11,218
From Sundah down the Burrah to Dacca and thence via Naraingunge across the Megna to Daoodkhundee in Tipperah,	200	2	11,218
From Tarda on the East of the Salt-water Lake via Soonderbuss to Koolna, Burrisaul and the Mouth of the Megna	250	3	21,327
From Koolna to the Pudda via Commercolly,	75	1	7,109
From Burrisaul to Dacca,	120	1	7,109
From Dacca to Myriemugh and the frontier of Assam,	200	2	11,218
From the junction of the Hooghly and the Mathabhangha to Pubna,	100	1	7,109
From Pubna via the Issamutttee and Hoonia Sagun to Dacca,	120	1	7,109
From Daoodkhundee on the Megna to Noacolly,	100	1	7,109
From Noacolly via Hatter and Sundeeep to Chittagong, including the Noacolly Island-	100	1	7,109
From Nudda on the Bhagerutttee via the Jellinghee to the Pudda opposite Sundah	100	1	7,109
From Hasting's Bridge to Kodgumet,	65	2	21,327
Total	2,235	24	1,77,725
Deduct permanent Expense,			20,000
Remains additional Expense,			1,57,725

which, for the efficient protection of upwards of 2,000 miles of River navigation must be considered a very reasonable expenditure.*

50. The squadrons, of which there are altogether twenty-four, must be stationed, according to location, to different Districts, to the Local Superintendent of

* The amount of the River Police, as estimated by the Government, is Rs. 1,77,725. The actual expenditure for the year 1864-65 was Rs. 1,57,725.

be strengthened considerably. But the force and the system proposed, which from no protection to considerable protection, is also a commencement of improvement, from which eventually, great benefit may arise.

which they would report, and be subordinate. Certain Local Judges also would be indicated to each squadron as nearest to its beat, and before these Judges the Inspectors would present cases for adjudication, the higher order of cases being of course reserved for trial at the Sudder Station of the squadron concerned, agreeably to the general plan.

51. Numbering the squadrons downwards from Buxar to the sea; they would be attached to Districts as in the following tables.

JURISDICTION	Squadron	Districts
Buxar via Moorshedabad to Calcutta,	1	Shahabad
	2	Patna or Moughlay
	3	Bhagnulpore
	4	Maddhi
	5	Moorshedabad
	6	Nuddea.
Sootee to the end of Furruckpore District,	7	Rajeshahy
	8	Furruckpore
Surdah to Doodkhandee via Dacca, ..	9	Pubna
	10	Dacca
Tarda to Mouth of Megna via Burisaul,	11	Buriset
	12	Jessore
	13	Backergunge
Koolna in the Soonderbuns to the Pudda via Commercolly, .	14	Jessore
Burisaul to Dacca,	15	Backergunge or Dacca.
Dacca to Assam Frontier,	16	Mymensingh
	17	
Mouth of the Mithabhangha to Pubna, ..	18	Nuddea
Pubna via Isamuttee to Dacca,	19	Pubna
Doodkhandee to Noacolly, ..	20	Noacolly
Noacolly to Chittagoug, .	21	Noacolly
Nuddea via Jellingheer to Pudda, . . .	22	Nuddea.
Hastings' Bridge to Lodgnee, . . .	23	24 Pergunnahs
	24	

52. The whole force would be responsible through the Local Superintendants to the Superintendent General of Police.

53 The continuity of the proposed system will still be imperfect, and an important branch of our subject left without amendment, unless a change be made in the mode under which the Police is administered in Military Cantonments. Upon this point I will quote part of the evidence of Brigadier Faithfull, given before the Committee on the 18th November, 1837

No 423. "What is the system of Police followed within those Cantonments?—
"The whole of the Police within the Cantonments is under the superintendence of a Commissioned Officer who is called the Superintendent of the Sudder Bazar. He has under him a Police Establishment as per paper A appended. When any crime takes place it is reported to that Officer and he proceeds to apprehend the offenders and to adjudicate the case, under certain Regulations which establish the amount of fines, the quantum of corporal punishment, and of incarceration.—should the case appear to him to exceed his jurisdiction, the parties are sent to the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs

Return of Dum-Dum Sudder Bazar Establishment
European and Native

Dum-Dum, 20th November, 1837

Rank and Designation	Pay of each	Pay of each Grade	Remarks
1 Superintendent, a Commissioned Officer.	80	80	This includes Pay of a Writer European, Native, Bazar, and 7
1 Bazar Sergeant.	20	20	
1 Kotwal.	10	10	
1 Chowdry.	10	10	
1 Musaddi.	7	7	
3 Weighmen.	3	9	
1 Feradani.	8	8	
1 Nalki.	5	5	
11 Prons.	4	44	
Total Company's Rs.		223	

425 "What remedies would you suggest?—I would suggest that the Officer who has charge of the Sudder Bazar and also the Assistant Adjutant General of Artillery, who holds a fixed office, should be Joint Magistrates of the 24-Pergunnahs and should have the Magisterial charge of the Cantonments, and also be able to apprehend offenders within about four miles, I say four miles because Barnagore, Cossapore, Gowtapore, and many hamlets within that circle are places where all kinds of villany and drunkenness have for the last twenty years been going on and the resort of the European soldiery, is encouraged by natives carrying on an illicit traffic in country spirits. Of the European Soldiers, from 250 to 300 are recruits for the Regiment of Artillery, they pass one year there, first at Dum-Dum, ere being distributed to troops and companies in Upper India. To these places around Cantonment where I have no controul, too many of these undisciplined, incautious youths are tempted, and initiated into vices and excesses, to which they were novices. I would also beg to mention to the Committee that bazars have lately been erected and are increasing just without the boundary line of the Cantonments, over which neither the Commanding Officer nor the Superintendent of the Bazar has the slightest authority or controul. Every native wishing to set Military authority at defiance, either to sell liquor, receive the Soldier's kit, which the dissipated characters will sell for a trifle, locate in those places, in preference to coming into the Military Sudder Bazar. Not only the people, but the servants of the Soldiers and of the Officers do the same, and they are then beyond all immediate and Military controul. I estimate the native population in these bazars at (5,000) five thousand persons.

426. "Does not the Magistrate exercise some controul over these people?—
 "No doubt he does, as efficiently as any one could do, situated at a distance of
 "eleven miles from a large and populous Village, and with a very moderate and
 "inadequate Police Establishment quite incapable in my opinion of coping with the
 "European and Native Soldiers, and Camp followers, in number about 7,000 persons,
 "residents of Cantonments, and with the class of people located in the vicinity
 "of Dum-Dum. I will mention in instance about a month ago, an affray took place,
 "opposite what is called the Big Tree at Dum-Dum, where there is a Native
 "Guard, at the gorge of the road entering into Cantonments, the Police people
 "being unable to subdue the disturbance, appealed to the Havildar of the Guard
 "who arrested and confined the man who was pointed out as the principal
 "offender, almost immediately after this a number of people from the bazar,
 "collected with the avowed determination of rescuing the prisoner, they were
 "only prevented by the good conduct and judgment of the Havildar and his
 "guard. What I would wish to impress upon the Committee is this, that nearly
 "all the inhabitants residing in the Bazar immediately on the boundary of the
 "Cantonments, have gradually increased to their present extent in consequence of
 "the wants and necessities of the persons residing within the Cantonments, and
 "that there is an absolute necessity for bringing them under the same prompt con-
 "trol that takes place within the Cantonments, and until this is done, I do not
 "see that it is practicable for any Commanding Officer to keep that good order
 "within the Cantonments that is necessary for its efficiency

127 "Do you think the system you have proposed would work well in all
 "Cantonments that you are acquainted with?—I am more particularly acquainted
 "with Cawnpore, which is perhaps one of the largest in the country, and I am quite
 "satisfied that, for the sake of uniformity of system and effective jurisdiction, the
 "system should be universal. The Civil Magistrate should be the controlling
 "authority, and the Military Magistrates within Cantonments should make all their
 "Returns and Statements to him, and their proceedings should be uniform

428. "In Cantonments where more than one Regiment is stationed, there
 "are besides a Sudder and Regimental Bazars, with Police Establishment under
 "the Colonel of each Regiment, independent of the Sudder Bazar Superintendent,
 "would you give the Military Joint Magistrate any power over these Regimental
 "Bazars?—Equal power,—the Joint Magistrate should have a general controul
 "over the whole

429 "What would be the feelings on the part of Commanding Officers to
 "this arrangement?—If they thought the system would work better than the pre-
 "sent, I should hope and believe that it would be favorable.

431 "Do the Villagers in the neighbourhood ever complain of the conduct
 "of the European Soldiers?—Constantly complaints come to me of the Soldiers
 "notwithstanding every vigilance and care on our part,—they go to the Villages
 "within two and three miles of the Cantonments and plunder coconuts and toddy,
 "and I believe in many cases the natives tempt them to come out there. In cases

"wherein the Europeans are in the wrong I am able to punish them, but I have no means of summarily checking or repressing the conduct of the natives, who invite the Soldiers to these places; and only complain of them when they commit violence towards them. The only way I have of proceeding is by appealing to the Magistrate and referring the cases to him. To this alternative native complainants too often decline to resort, under the disadvantages consequent on the difficulties they experience in identifying Europeans many days after the aggression occurred, but they would under wrong recently inflicted damage on oath before a competent authority at Dum-Dum, with greater chance of establishing their case

432 "According to Regulation XX. of 1810, all Camp-followers are subject to Martial law, would you abrogate or maintain this rule?—I would make no change,—all cases falling under Military law, should continue to be so, but every case now heard and determined by the Officers in charge of the bazars, as well those now necessarily referred to the Magistrate of the 24 Pergumnahs, should be disposed of by a Civil Law Officer, or Magistrate resident at Dum-Dum"

51 It is clear from this evidence, that improvement is called for; and that in the judgment of an experienced Officer, the improvement is to be made by assimilating the Cantonment rules to the general system of the country. As it is equally obvious that the Cantonment Police, unless incorporated with my system, would thoroughly prevent and interrupt the regular and connected organization which is essential to success, I shall only follow out and apply the Brigadier's intelligent propositions, if I connect the Police of the Cantonments with that of the country at large, by extending to Military Stations the same principles of separation of functions and of uniform subordination, which are the foundations of the present plan.

55 The mode of doing this will vary in different Cantonments, and of course a smaller addition to the Establishment will be required in some Stations than in others. Generally, however, it would be necessary to station a Local Judge (or Sudder Ameen,) Native or European, in a Cantonment to adjudicate to a certain extent cases not Military within the Cantonment, and in a circle of country round it, and an Assistant Superintendent, with an adequate force of Police,* would be required in addition to the Establishment of Officers, for which I have already provided

* In Stations where European Corps are quartered, European Constables would be required

56 The cost of these additions to the general Police force must necessarily be provided for (after applying the cost of present Cantonment Establishments) out of the usual resources of the State. The Sudder Ameen would be on the same footing with other Judges of the same class, and the Police force would be controlled and directed in common with that of the country at large, by the Superintendent General.

57. The addition to the expenditure of the State thus occasioned, may be estimated as follows

CANTONMENTS	Sudder Ameens.	Asst. Suddes	Inspectors	Sub-Inspectors	Constables	Jemadars.	Burkundazes	Total Expende	REMARKS
1 Dmapore.	1	1	1*	0	4†	4	80	13,800	The Cantonments at a distance from the Sudder Station of the Magistrate, or not at a Thannah Station, would require a larger Police force, than if the contrary were the case, and this has been observed in the Estimate
2 Dum-Dum,	1	1	0	1‡	2‡	2	50	10,320	The charge for Sudder Ameens is not properly a Police charge, but should stand against "Judicial Establishments in general." These duties too will not be confined to cases arising in Cantonments. They will each have a circle of jurisdiction beyond Cantonments sufficient to occupy their time civilly and criminally
3 Barrackpore,	1	1	1§	1||	0	2	50	10,140	The Police are intended for employment in the Stations only. Deducting the cost of Sudder Ameens the charges would be per annum Rupees 23,160, from which deduct Rupees 6,960 at present expended, leaving net addition to expenditure on account of Police, Rs 16,500
Total	3	3	2	2	6	8	180	34,260	

58. Enquiry into the system of Police in Calcutta does not fall within our duties, but it may be proper to remark that in 1830 the system of division of functions was introduced into the Calcutta Police Office, and that the alteration has been attended with great success

59. In 1835 the Chief Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police (Captain Steel) reported that the separation of functions had proved eminently favorable to the efficiency of the Police, and they only complained that owing to certain misapprehensions of the orders of Government, the separation of the two duties had not been quite so complete as was to be wished.

* European on 100 Rs. per Mensem

§ Native on 100 Rs per Mensem

† Do on 40 " " "

|| Do on 25 " " "

‡ European on 60 " "

60 They were joined by the present Superintendent, Captain Birch, in recommending most strongly that the division of duties should be made complete, and that the Judicial Magistrates should have no power or opportunity of interference with the authority of the Police Superintendent and his subordinates

61 It is my opinion that the Calcutta Police, like that of the rest of the country, should be placed under the Superintendent General, and form part of the general system. For this the Calcutta Police is obviously well adapted, as it is in effect the very system which I propose for the Provinces, and could not therefore fail to amalgamate with it successfully. Separated, the two systems of Police (that of Calcutta and the Mofussil) will, whenever they come in contact, injure each other as in practice they now do. United, they would in a very high degree assist each other's efficiency. In the Districts which immediately surround Calcutta the greater crimes all emanate from the Capital, and the Magistrates of the neighbouring Zillahs well know the secure retreat which Calcutta affords to Dacoits after the commission of robberies in the Suburbs. The Superintendent General of Mofussil Police must be for the most part powerless in Hoogly, Midnapore, Burdwan, Nuddea, Jessore, Baraset, and the 24-Pergunnahs, unless he be at the same time Superintendent General of Calcutta Police. To be subject to his authority would in no degree weaken the latter, and the alteration would give an incalculable addition of power to the machinery of the former.

62 I see no good reason why, under an efficient Police system, any distinct force need be employed in the Preventive Service of the Opium and Salt Departments.

63 To violate the laws against the transportation of Salt and Opium is surely much the same as to violate the laws against thefts and robberies. We should think it absurd to have one Police for apprehending burglars, and another Police for apprehending dacoits, one Guard Boat specially directed against the operations of river pirates and a second limited to the prevention of conveying stolen goods by water. Yet I question if the system of having one Police to apprehend smugglers, and another to apprehend thieves, be not very much the same thing. A Special Police has been allotted to the Salt and Opium Departments, doubtless because the general Police of the country was ineffectual for the purposes of Government. But I do not like to see one Police for Government and another for its subjects. If the Police were as good as the subjects have a right to demand, it would be as good as the Government for its own purposes could possibly require, and a Special Government Police would no longer be necessary.

64 So long as our Police is inefficient a separate Preventive Service may be required, but the effect that it is calculated to produce upon its specific object is at all times very much abated by the inevitable jealousy and opposition raised by it among the regular Police, while the purposes of the latter are again considerably frustrated by the jealousy of the former. But if our Police system were good it might I apprehend be applied with effect to the prevention of offences against the Salt and Opium laws, especially if the power now separately employed in the Preventive Service were added to that of the Police, and the whole made to act under one impulse.

65 The present Establishments of Preventive Establishments in the Salt and Opium Departments cost per annum about Rupees 1,74,888. A proper application of these means would give increased power of preventing all crimes, smuggling included, and a body of Officers now greatly opposed to our Police, and opposed again by it, would then act with it in strict union, and the whole being under one direction, it can scarcely be doubted that the result would be increase of efficiency in both departments

66. I entirely concur in the recommendation of the Report for the separation of the Magistracies from the Collectorships. Under my plan the Magistrate would be simply a Judge either of Civil or Criminal cases, or of both. From such a functionary it is absolutely necessary to sever all Fiscal duties, but I would at the same time take from the Collector as far as possible all duties of a Judicial nature now appertaining to his function of Collector. We are however to consider the change which this would produce in the gradation and distribution of the service, and we must be careful that no increase is produced in the expense of the Civil list.

67. I think the general gradation of the Service should be as follows *

GRADL	First Salary	Second Salary	Third Salary	Fourth Salary.
1 Assistant to Collector,	1,800	0	0	0
Deputy Collector,	8,400	0	0	0
Collector,	12,000	18,000	0	0
Zillah Judge, Civil and Criminal,	18,000	24,000	28,000	32,000
Commissioners of Revenue,	35,000	0	0	0
Superintendent Police,	36,000	42,000	0	0
Supdt Civil and Criminal Justice,	36,000	42,000	0	0
Sudder Dewanny and Sudder Board of Revenue,	52,000	0	0	0

* In this and in the following paragraph I would be understood as not insisting on any particular gradation of salaries, or any exact distribution of Officers. Some alteration of distribution and of gradation must result from the separation of Magistracies and Collectors. I have given my own notion of what this alteration should be, but I wish not to have it considered other wise than as an illustration. I may add that the alteration I propose or suggest is capable of being very gradually made in circumstances which I conceive to be much in its favour

68 Taking as before the 32 Districts of the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Police, for a comparison, we may estimate the expenses of the Judicial and Revenue Covenanted Establishment, present and proposed, nearly in the following manner

PROPOSED.

6 Commissioners of Revenue at	35,000	2,10,000	
2 Superintendents, one of Police, the other of Civil and Criminal Justice at [average,]	89,000	78,000	
10 Civil and Criminal Judges at	32,000	3,20,000	
10 Ditto Ditto Ditto at	28,000	2,80,000	
17 Ditto Ditto Ditto at	24,000	4,08,000	
17 Ditto Ditto Ditto at	18,000	3,06,000	
			18,14,000
		Carried over	18,14,000

		Brought forward	13,14,000
6 Collectors on	18,000	1,08,000	
26 Ditto on	12,000	3,08,000	
		<hr/>	4,20,000
21 Deputy Collectors on	8,400	1,76,400	
32 Assistants on	4,800	1,53,600	
		<hr/>	3,30,000
		<hr/>	* 20,64,000

* If the suggestion thrown out in a note on paragraph 33, for the appointment of four Covanted Division Superintendents of Police be adopted, as I hope it may, an addition will be made to the total sum in the text, of about one Lac of Rupees

The present Establishment in the same Districts is the following

Judicial Department

Civil and Session Judges,	7,74,725	
Additional Judges,	54,000	
Magistrates,	3,00,000	
Joint Magistrates,	1,91,800	
Assistants to Magistrates,	69,600	
	<hr/>	13,80,125

Revenue Department

Commissioners of Revenue, *	2,47,000	
Collectors of Revenue,	3,74,620	
Deputy Collectors,	1,91,800	
Assistants to Collectors,	1,03,200	
	<hr/>	9,16,620

Total 23,06,754*

* The above expense does not include Commissioner's travelling allowances and Collectors' Commissions on Opium, &c nor Deputation allowances to Officers

69. I do not agree with those who advocate a complete separation of *lines*, who are of opinion that the Civilian beginning in the Revenue line should end in the Revenue line, or that if he begin in the Judicial he should end in the Judicial. On the contrary, I am convinced that much good is gained by allowing opportunities of experience in both lines, and I think that the Judges should all have experience in the Revenue branch of the service, before they are called upon to serve as Judges. Whether before or after their service, in the Revenue Department they should undergo any judicial training before they arrive at the bench, and what should be the nature of their training, are questions of great importance, but not immediately connected with our present subject.

70. In the principle of the recommendation for the appointment of Deputy Magistrates I concur, but as has been seen already, I propose a different mode of carrying the principle into effect. Upon this subject it is not necessary to say

To provide for which we have

Present Covenanted Establishment in the Districts quoted, } Judicial and Revenue, }	Rs. 23,06,745
Uncovenanted Judicial Establishments (exclusive of Law Officers,) „	6,96,240
Police Commutation Tax, „	60,92,748
Present Police Establishment, „	6,23,629
River Police Establishment, „	39,591
Cantonment Police Do, „	6,960
Total „	97,65,913

* Should the suggestion in paragraph 33 for the appointment of four Covenanted Division Superintendents of Police be adopted, the sum in the text will be increased by about one lac of Rupees, it will be Rupees 1,80,632.

† When we reflect on the duties, which nevertheless are entrusted to men thus thought of more particularly when we consider that to them is devolved the military investigation in every Criminal prosecution, and that there can be no hope of co-operation on the part of the community so long as they remain the chief instruments of our Police system, we are deeply impressed with the conviction of the necessity for your discontinuing to employ such a class of Agents, and for your supplying their places by men of very different qualifications and character and we desire that you will allow no other question, for none is of a superior or more pressing importance, nor financial considerations for they should not be allowed to weigh in such an emergency, to stand in the way of your deliberations with a view to a change so urgently required.

showing a net additional expense consequent on the proposed alterations of Rupees 2,80,632,* a sum very small in comparison with the objects for which it is required and certainly not more than must have been contemplated by the Honorable Court when they expressed the very liberal sentiments quoted in the margin from their dispatch of the 20th January 1836

76 It must not however be forgotten that we have prospectively to meet this addition, an eventual reduction of Mofussil Resumption Establishments, (not to mention the Special Commission) of Rupees 1,03,000, and at the close of the present resumption and settlement operations a certain reduction of one-half of the present expense of Uncovenanted Deputy Collectors, now amounting in the aggregate to nearly six lacs of Rupees. It is not improbable that as our present Revenue operations advance towards completion, the necessity for keeping up the appointments of Commissioners of Revenue will diminish, until in the end perhaps the office of Commissioners may be abolished altogether. I think therefore that the additional expense proposed is not unreasonable, and that it may be safely and properly adopted.

77 Lastly, I would observe that of the alterations I have proposed, only one is on the score of extent at all objectionable, that for this extensive alteration, I have shewn full cause, and that the gradual manner in which its introduction is intended, obviates, if the plan be otherwise a sound one, the only strong reason by which its adoption can be opposed.

FRED JAS. HALLIDAY

1 I have read Mr. Halliday's Minute. The plan proposed in it is founded entirely on the assumption that the native community in general, and the Zumeendars in particular, would gladly agree to the imposition of a Police Commutation Tax, to the annual amount of more than 60 lacs of rupees—an assumption which appears to me to be totally without foundation.

2 His argument (vide paragraph 36) is in substance as follows Chowkeedars are very irregularly paid, and sometimes not paid at all. They are accordingly in the habit of applying to the Government Officers to realize their demands, just or unjust, against the Villagers and Zameendars, and the latter to escape the extortion with which this is invariably attended, would gladly compound for a regular monthly payment direct to Government. Hence it is assumed, (vide paragraph 29) that 60 lacs of rupees are annually at the disposal of the State "*for any executive purpose*," nay, that the 60 lacs are even now already in our hands.

3 This appears to me to be rather hastily jumping to a conclusion. It seems to have escaped Mr. Halliday that the native community at large, who, rather than pay what is due to the Chowkeedars, prefer waiting to be coerced, notwithstanding the abuses with which such coercion is admitted to be accompanied, are not likely to pay voluntarily, even to Government—and consequently that the adoption of his plan would be attended with all those vexations which formerly led to the abolition of the Police Tax,* and which would be the more intolerable because the mode in which the proceeds are intended to be made use of would appear to the community at large in the light of a misappropriation, and as a mere pretext for obtaining an increase of Revenue.

4 There are many other grave and important objections to the plan, but as I consider the difficulty of raising voluntarily the sum of 60 lacs of rupees a year, without which it cannot be introduced, to be insurmountable, it would be giving unnecessary trouble until that difficulty has been overcome, to enter into any further discussion on the subject.

5 The policy of attempting to enforce the imposition and collection of such a Tax, in the event of Mr. Halliday being mistaken in his idea that the people will be glad to pay, is also a question which as it will doubtless be taken into full and deliberate consideration in the proper place, there is no occasion to discuss here, but I cannot abstain from remarking that the present is not the happiest period that could be selected for the trial of such an experiment.

6 I have no objection to the disunion of Executive from Judicial functions. On the contrary, the principle has been invariably advocated by me both in the Revenue and Judicial Departments, but while it is pertinaciously disregarded in the one for resumption purposes, it cannot very consistently be introduced into the other, especially when the extinction of all the indigenous Police of the country, in order to transfer the whole of the funds with which that Police has been hitherto supported by the people into the coffers of the State, to be available "*for any executive purpose*" whatever, is to be founded on such introduction.

W. W. BIRD

13th October, 1838

MINUTE BY MR. LOWIS

The measures proposed by Mr. Halliday appear to me systematic in plan, complete in detail, and sound in principle. The introduction of the entirely new machinery described in his minute, will in my opinion, secure a more radical and complete reform of the Police of the country, than can be expected from the modifications and amendment of existing arrangements as set forth in the Report of the Committee, his scheme therefore has my full support.

The practicability of organizing this new system and of improving the old, rests on precisely the same basis—viz. upon the successful abstraction from the pockets of the community of a certain sum of money, to be paid, according to the Committee's plan, direct to the Chowkeydar—according to Mr. Halliday's, primarily to some one else. I do not think that this difference, in the mere recipient of the tax, will affect in any degree the willingness or unwillingness of the payer to make his payments: and Mr. Halliday's assumption, that 60 lacs will be as readily paid to one set of men as to another, will doubtless be found practically correct, especially if the money be collected more fairly and purchase for the people more efficient protection than they have heretofore enjoyed.

All parties agree in the absolute necessity of enforcing payment by the people of the Chowkeydars' wages. The imposition and collection of such a tax cannot be avoided: and I do not perceive why the present time bears a more favourable aspect for the tax in the one form than in the other. I am of opinion further, that the vexations which led to the abolition of the Poll tax in 1797, are inherent in and inseparable from the present system which commands the collection of the tax, in detail, to the subordinate Police: and that a much better system might be introduced.

This is not the place to examine the accuracy of the assertion, that in making resumptions, the principle of disuniting the Judicial from the Executive has been lost sight of: although I hold that such an opinion is founded upon a misapprehension of the theory and practice of the Resumption law. But, allowing it to be correct, it is not sound argument to aver that a departure from right principle in one branch of administration requires, for the sake of consistency, a departure from it in another: nor is it altogether right to invert an opponent's statement and to call his scheme to appear to stand on the wrong end. Mr. Halliday's plan is thus described by Mr. Bird—“The extinction of the indigenous Police of the country is to be founded on the introduction of the principle of disuniting the Judicial from the Executive—in order to transfer the whole of the funds, with which that Police has been hitherto supported by the people, into the coffers of the State, to be available for any Executive purpose whatever.” How little his able and comprehensive plan of improvement deserves such a description, those who examine it most minutely will be best able to judge.

J. LOWIS

November 15

ERRATUM—In the note inserted on the margin of page 30, at the end of the Report of the Committee, for “in a minute” read “in minutes.”

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REPORT
ON
THE STATE OF THE POLICE
IN
THE LOWER PROVINCES
FOR
THE YEAR 1848

SHAHABAD.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	587	661
Offences against property committed with violence, . . .	27	22
Offences against property committed without violence,	1100	1208
Malicious offences against property,	9	3
Forgery and offences against the currency,.....	2	2
Other offences not included in the above,	635	626

1st. The first class is composed of murder 10, homicide 3, assault with wounding 10, rape 1, assault 471, resistance of process 153, sitting dhurna 6, abuse 2, false imprisonment 1, abduction 2, attempt at murder on the river 1, attempt at murder 1. In one case of murder two parties were sentenced, one to imprisonment for life and the other to seven years' confinement the crime originated from the deceased demanding from the others the price of some pork which he had sold them. In another, where the prisoner murdered his uncle and then attempted to commit suicide, sentence of transportation for life was passed by the Superior Court. In a third case, the prisoner, who without any apparent provocation murdered his niece, was acquitted he had been subject to fits of lunacy. In one case there was not sufficient proof against the parties to warrant commitment in one the parties were punished for an assault, and the remaining were occasioned by disputes regarding trespass, in which the violent habits of the people of this district constantly lead to loss of life. In all twelve cases, two of which occurred in previous years, came before the Magistrate, and out of nineteen persons apprehended, two were discharged by him, one acquitted by the Nizamut, five convicted by the Sessions Judge, three by the Court of Nizamut Adawlut, and three cases with eight persons were pending, in all of which convictions have since taken place. These results are creditable to the Police. All the parties accused of homicide were discharged by the Magistrate two of them were cases of justifiable thief-killing. In the assaults with wounding, twenty-seven persons were punished to three released. The party charged with rape,

was released. The other headings do not require notice, with the exception of the attempt to murder, which was the exposure of a new-born infant, and the prisoner was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. I must observe, that the Magistrate has omitted a case of administering drugs to two travellers on the Great Road, in which the offender was seized before he could complete his purpose of robbing, he was transferred for trial to the Assistant General Superintendent at Patna. In the attempt at murder on the River, in which the crew of a boat after robbing and wounding the Churundar threw him overboard, the whole of the persons concerned have been convicted since the close of the year.

2nd. In the second class there is an improvement. It consists of highway robbery with wounding 9, highway robbery 2, theft with wounding 1, theft by administering drugs 1, cattle-stealing with murder 1, affray with homicide 4, affray 4. Highway robbery is a common offence in this district, and is usually committed by Dosadhs and low caste people, who watch parties returning from markets in the dusk of the evening, or else plunder travellers in solitary places along the Trunk Road. There is very little, indeed, almost no protection along the Roads beyond a few Police Stations, the Burkundauzes at which are constantly absent on other duties, and the chances of arresting the offenders are but small. In the offences with personal injury, generally nothing beyond a few blows, five persons were discharged, six convicted, and two cases with eight prisoners were pending. In the simple offences five persons had been punished. One of these last was the robbery of the Government Banghy Dâk, which occurred on the night of 1st of August last. After a very great deal of trouble, the Deputy Magistrate of Susseeram succeeded in recovering a great portion of the property carried off, and on the 22nd March of this year, reported his having committed three persons as being concerned in, or privy to, the robbery, since then one person has been convicted. He had at one time arrested the principal in the offence, but he escaped from the Hyut Guard. In the theft with wounding, four persons were convicted. Only one case of theft by administering drugs is entered, but I find two reported, in one of which the offender was traced into the Ghazee-pore District, and there arrested, but escaped from the Local Police. In the cattle-stealing with murder, all the property was recovered, but no one could recognise the offenders. Four affrays with homicide are entered. They are not like the affrays in Bengal, where men are hired to attack or defend property in which they have no interest. In these cases the parties concerned and their immediate relations dispute about the possession of a tree or a piece of land, and after a short time spent in verbal abuse, have recourse to their lattees with which they are generally armed, and in the scuffle lives are lost. No Police can prevent the occurrence of such sudden acts of violence, but I am glad to say that in all the cases punishment followed on the proceedings. The affrays were disposed of by the Magistrate.

3rd. The third class is made up of burglary 431, theft 372, cattle-stealing 252, receiving stolen property 18, plundering 10, embezzlement 3, attempt at burglary 68, attempt at theft 54. In the burglaries, ninety-nine cases were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed and fourteen by order of the Magistrate. Of the thefts, 314 were investigated on petitions and thirty-four by order. In the first, eighteen

persons were convicted to 103 released, and three cases with four prisoners remained. In the latter 196 were punished to 407 discharged. Thirty-one were convicted of receiving stolen property.

4th In the fourth class are three cases of arson, in which no parties were punished, and in the fifth are two charges of forgery, in which also the parties were discharged.

5th The sixth is composed of perjury 1, neglect by Chowkeedars 380, neglect of Zemindars 58, bad character 19, contempt of Court 56, committing nuisances 12, trespass 11, exacting money under false pretences 10, false complaint 29, bribery 7, refractory prisoners 4, using short weights 3, absconding 3, concealing crimes 3, fraud 8, quitting service 1, intoxication 11, retaining unclaimed property 1, harbouring offenders 5, gambling 4. In the charges of bad character twenty-four persons were punished to seventeen released. The other headings call for no particular notice.

6th The Police Officers sent in 602 persons on their own responsibility, and 218 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 513 on bail. The total number coming before the Courts was 3,301.

7th One prisoner had escaped, who was re-apprehended.

8th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 5,305. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 2 13-3, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 1,968.

9th Two hundred and forty Rupees had been paid in rewards to parties unconnected with the Police for assistance in the apprehension of offenders.

10th Two Jemadars and five Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police for neglect and misconduct.

11th The securities of the Officers in charge of public money had been revised and found sufficient.

12th Mr Radcliffe was in charge of the district during the year, and evinced great zeal and attention in the performance of his duties. Mr Toogood was assistant with special powers, and conducted the duties made over to him with ability and industry. Mr Worseley was Deputy Magistrate in charge of a subdivision stationed at Susseeram, where his presence has been most advantageous to the people.

S A R U N.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	571	655
Offences against property committed with violence,	19	9
Offences against property committed without violence,	1207	1270
Mulicious offences against property,	14	11
Forgery and offences against the currency,	0	1
Other offences not included in the above,	550	718

13th In the first class are murder 1, wounding with intent to murder 1, homicide 18, child-stealing 1, assault with wounding 43, suttee 1, assault 486, abuse 3, branding 1, oppression 23, resistance of process 77. The case of murder occurred late in the year, it was that of a boy of fifteen years of age, who killed his aunt, an idiot, the trial was pending at the Sessions. The wounding with intent to murder also took place on the 24th December. The prisoner who is supposed to be insane, attempted to murder his mother and son by cutting their throats. Altogether twenty cases of homicide came to trial including five in which seven prisoners were concerned, which took place in the years 1840 and 47. Out of the eighteen reported as occurring during the year, four were cases of thief-killing, and the rest the result of disputes about trespass, &c., in which sudden acts of violence leading to loss of life were used. In the whole the Magistrate discharged sixteen persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted nine, and convicted nine, the Nizamut convicted one, and one case with one prisoner was pending. In the assaults with wounding fifty-seven persons had been punished to thirty-nine released. In the suttee the Sessions Judge acquitted the five parties committed. It appeared that on the death of a R upoot, his widow, a girl of fourteen or fifteen years of age, declared her intention of sacrificing herself. She was dissuaded, *it is said*, from doing so by the relatives of her husband, but she certainly accompanied the bier, dressed in the usual saffron coloured robes and calling out "Seeta Ram." The witnesses declared that the pile was only built up for one corpse and not prepared for a suttee, and that after the pyre had been lighted by the brother of the deceased, the widow, who had hitherto been held by two persons, begged them to release her that she might take a last look at her husband's corpse, they did so, and, she tucking up her clothes, jumped on the burning pile and was consumed. Now giving all credit to this apocryphal story, it is clear that the parties though not aiding and abetting before the act, yet certainly by their release of the deceased from their safe custody, and by their not making any attempt to rescue the young girl, which might easily have been done by so many men they were consenting to, and ut and part in the death of the girl. I think too that had not suttees been prohibited, the girl was under the age when she might have performed the rite. The remaining headings do not call for any particular notice.

14th The second class is composed of highway robbery with wounding 2, highway robbery 1, theft with wounding 2, affray with homicide 2, affray 2, attempt at affray 1. In one case of highway robbery with wounding, the party was punished, and one case with three prisoners was pending. The affrays were unpremeditated and arose from disputes regarding property, in which, as the people in these parts are generally armed with swords or heavy clubs, words speedily lead to blows, and the

dispute is seldom terminated until some one falls mortally hurt or killed. The parties were punished, and I am also glad to observe that, several persons who had been charged as concerned in affrays in previous years but evaded pursuit, had been arrested and brought to trial. The affrays were disposed of by the Magistrate.

15th In the third class are burglary 703, theft 251, cattle-stealing 123, receiving stolen property 5, plundering 76, attempt at burglary 94, attempt at theft 18. In the burglaries forty-three were enquired into, at the request of the parties robbed, and ninety-two by the orders of the Magistrate. Out of the thefts 158 were investigated on petitions, and sixty-three by order. In the first only seventeen persons were convicted to fifty-five discharged, and in the latter eighty-one were punished to 119 released, twenty-four persons were convicted of receiving stolen property.

16th The fourth class is made up of 11 charges of arson, of which only one was carried through and that was pending, and one of maliciously killing cattle, and in the fifth class there is only one case of forgery, the accused in which were acquitted.

17th In the sixth class are perjury 1, bad character 30, breaking jail 3, bribery 1, breach of jail rules 1, contempt of Court 121, concealing crime 11, conspiracy 1, drunkenness 29, escape from custody 2, extortion 1, false complaint 53, fraud and cheating 9, harbouring offenders 1, illegal assemblage 1, neglect by Police and Chowkedars 320, neglect by Zemindars 75, obstructing justice 1, overloading ferry boats 1, plying private ferry boats 3, suits under Regulation 7 of 1819 4, trespass 19. In the charges of bad character forty-eight persons were punished to forty-nine dismissed.

18th The Police sent in 402 persons on their own responsibility and 850 by the orders of the Magistrate releasing 133 on bail, the total number coming before the Courts was 2,419.

19th Three hundred and forty-five Rupees have been paid to Police Officers and others for good conduct and the arrest of parties.

20th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 21,871-10-3. The Chowkedarree Assessment was Rupees 7,098-12-0, and the expense of the Establishment was Rupees 6,402.

21st Three convicts had broken jail, but were all re-apprehended.

22nd Two Darogahs, two Jemadars and four Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police force. One of the Darogahs for gross collusion in a case, and the other for general inefficiency.

23rd The securities of the Officers in charge of the public money had been revised and reported sufficient.

24th Mr E Jackson was in charge of the district until the 22nd September, when he was relieved by Mr Lillie. Mr Jackson is a very able and efficient Officer,

keeping his Police in good order and activity, and I observe that during the time he has held charge of this Magistracy, many persons who had evaded pursuit for a considerable time were arrested and brought to trial. Mr Lillie has conducted the duties satisfactorily since he assumed charge. Mr Combe has transacted the business made over to him well. Mr Campbell, the Assistant with special powers, is a very promising young Officer, and takes great interest in his work. Mr Ricketts, the Assistant, is also favorably reported on. Mr Lynch is Deputy Magistrate, stationed at Sewan. This gentleman possesses an intimate knowledge of the manners and language of the people, is indefatigable in the discharge of his business, and his location in the interior, where an Officer of his description was much wanted, will prove of great benefit.

C H U M P A R U N .

	1847	1848
Offences against the person, .	381	768
Offences against property committed with violence, .	2	4
Offences against property committed without violence, .	786	1053
Malicious offences against property, .	7	8
Forgery and offences against the currency, .	0	3
Other offences not included in the above, ..	197	267

25th The first class is composed of murder 5, wounding with intent to murder 1, homicide 2, affray 2, assault with wounding 12, rape 3, assault 556, oppression 163, resistance of process 24. In the first case of murder the prisoner, who in consequence of a dispute and the interchange of abusive language with the deceased, struck him three or four blows with a short heavy knife, one of which penetrated to the brain, was found guilty of aggravated culpable homicide, and sentenced to imprisonment for fourteen years. In the second three persons caught one Raseo Koonwai in the act of carrying off two buffaloes, which he had stolen from the house of one of them, and tied him to a post with the intent, as they said, of taking him to the Than-nah, but two of them being enraged with the thief, on account of previous acts of theft and intrigue, took him into a field, and there strangled him by compressing his neck between two bamboos, the third, although he forbade the murder, was present whilst it was committed, and took no steps to prevent it. He was acquitted, and the two others were sentenced to imprisonment in banishment for fourteen years. The third arose from a trespass. In it the Sessions Judge acquitted three parties and sentenced two to imprisonment for four years. The fourth was an aggravated case. In consequence of a preconcerted plan, the five prisoners laid in wait for, and caught the deceased herding his cattle, during the night, on land belonging to one of them, and proceeded to murder him by blows with clubs and stabs with a spear, the weapons being procured after his seizure for that purpose. The spear was thrust into his eye and various other parts of his body, and both his arms were broken. The Sessions Judge convicted one of the party of "*culpable homicide*," and the other four of being *accomplices in the same*, and passed sentences on the first of *six years' imprisonment* with labor in irons, and on the rest of *three years' imprisonment* without

nons and a fine of thirty Rupees in lieu of labor. In the fifth, a boy of thirteen, was found with his throat cut in a field—no trace was found of the offenders, but two persons were sent in on suspicion of having murdered the boy, in order to appease an evil spirit who had taken possession of their brother. They were released, there being no evidence against them. In the wounding with intent to murder, the prisoner, who desperately wounded with a sword, a woman whom he could not induce to leave her husband's protection, was sentenced by the Sessions Judge to imprisonment with labor in irons for ten years. In the charges of homicide the accused were discharged—one was decidedly accidental, and in the other there was no proof against the party. The affrays were petty. In the assaults with wounding, twenty-three persons were punished. In the rapes no convictions ensued, and the remaining headings require no particular notice.

26th. In the second class, are dacoitee 2, burglary with murder 1, theft with wounding 1. The dacoities were the act of one gang, and occurred at the Hurreery Mela. The dacoits first attacked and threatened to murder the Darogah, who instantly hid himself under a cart, and from thence transferred himself to a safer position under the platform of a sweetmeat shop. The dacoits carried off a few pots and pans and clothes belonging to the Darogah, and then plundered the booth of a cloth merchant. The Darogah, who seems to have been frightened out of what little sense he had, instead of taking measures to pursue them came down to Mootchharree and gave in his resignation, declaring the Jemadar and Burkunduzes had brought the dacoits on purpose to murder him. The Mootchharree Darogah was sent out to investigate the case, but although some of the property was traced and discovered, the Sessions Judge did not consider the evidence sufficient to warrant a conviction. In the burglary with murder, no trace could be discovered of the criminal. The theft with wounding was pending at the Sessions.

27th. The third class is composed of burglary 282, theft 409, cattle-stealing 144, receiving stolen property 7, plundering 19, attempt at burglary 171, attempt at theft 21. Twenty-eight burglaries and one hundred and six thefts were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed—eight burglaries and nineteen thefts, by order of the Magistrate. In the former twenty-nine, and in the latter 122 persons had been punished. Eleven persons were convicted of receiving stolen property.

28th. Seven cases of arson and one of destroying property are in the fourth class. No punishments followed the charges of arson. In the fifth class are three cases of uttering base coin, in which one person was discharged and two punished by the Magistrate.

29th. The sixth class is composed of absconding from service 53, bad repute 11, breaking jail 2, bribery 1, contempt of Court 24, escape from guard 2, false complaint 12, fraud 12, neglect of duty by Zemindars 13, neglect by Chowkedars and others 137. In the cases of bad repute only one person was punished.

30th. The Police Officers sent in 229 persons on their own authority and 157 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 124 on bail, and having 20 under investigation before them. The total number coming before the Courts was 1,370.

31st. Twenty-five Rupees had been paid for the arrest of a prisoner

32nd The Ferry Collections were Rupees 2,425 There is no Chowkeedarree Assessment at the Sudder Station, which is a small and straggling village.

33rd One Mohurrir had been dismissed from the Police.

34th The Securities of the Officers in charge of money had been enquired into and found sufficient.

35th Mr W H Elliott was in charge until the latter end of April, when he was relieved by Mr G C Fletcher Mr Elliott during his stay in this district has done much towards relieving the poorer classes from the oppression practised on them by the Teekdars, and has also by his measures improved the condition of the Police I hope that his example may be followed by his successor

TIRHOOT.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	684	661
Offences against property committed with violence,	0	1
Offences against property committed without violence, .	1596	1950
Malicious offences against property, . .	19	12
Forgery and offences against the currency, . . .	3	1
Other offences not included in the above, . . .	814	780

36th In the first class are murder 5, wounding with intent to murder 1, homicide 12, affray 2, assault with wounding 21, assault 509, oppression 20, riot 27, resistance of process 58, abuse 3, rape 1, attempt at murder 2 In the murders four persons were discharged by the Magistrate, one acquitted at the Sessions, one by the Nizamut, three convicted by the Sessions Judge, and one case with two prisoners was pending In the case acquitted at the Sessions, the prisoner was charged with the murder of a traveller, name unknown, and there was not sufficient evidence of his guilt In that where the prisoner was released by the Nizamut, there was only the recognition of one party to the prisoner at the time of perpetrating the offence and of three who said they saw him escape from the house. Two of the remaining cases, including that pending, were certainly homicides, and sentences were passed as such In the charge of wounding with intent to murder, the Magistrate released the accused In the cases of homicide the Magistrate discharged two, the Sessions Judge convicted eleven persons, and four cases with five persons in jail and one on bail were pending They were all (excepting one case) arising out of sudden disputes, trespasses, &c., but that one pending before the Magistrate ought not to have been entered under this head, but under No. 19, or theft with murder. In this the prosecutor and his brother had moored their boat at a ghât near to Durbungah. During the night the prosecutor's brother was heard crying

out, that thieves had broken open his box, taken away his money and stabbed him. The prosecutor and the crew, excepting two, (the prisoners who never returned to the boat) rushed on board and found the box empty and the prosecutor's brother wounded in several places and dying. They concealed the matter, burned the corpse, and the circumstances did not transpire until they returned to Dacca, the Magistrate of which place sent them up. The affrays were petty. In the assaults with wounding eighty persons were punished to thirteen discharged. In the rape the party was acquitted, and in the two attempts to commit murder, convictions ensued. One was a case of one convict endeavouring to strangle another with whom he had a quarrel, he was sentenced to a further period of imprisonment for fourteen years. The other was an attempt at theft with murder. The prisoner told the son of the prosecutor that his father wished to see him at Durbungah, and that he had better take some money for the journey. The boy did so, and accompanied the prisoner, and they rested under a tree for the night. At about one o'clock in the morning the prisoner, having secured the Rupees, took the boy up and threw him into a well near at hand. Fortunately, there was a tree growing out of the brick-work of the well, and thus the boy seized, and screaming for help was rescued. The prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment with labor and irons for five years.

37th. In the second class there is only one attempt at theft with wounding, in which two persons were punished by the Magistrate.

38th. The third class is composed of burglary 318, theft 285, cattle-stealing 69, receiving stolen property 9, embezzlement 6, plunder 42, attempt at burglary 1086, attempt at theft 105. Sixty-nine burglaries and 167 thefts were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, nineteen of the former and thirty-six of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries fifty-one and in the thefts 186 persons were punished. Nineteen were also punished for receiving stolen property. In my report for 1847, para 40, I have stated the reason for so many attempts at burglaries being entered in the statements for this District.

39th. The fourth class is composed of arson 4, destroying roads and embankments 7, killing a buffalo 1. No convictions took place in the charges of arson.

40th. One case of forgery pending is in the fifth class, and in the sixth are perjury 3, neglect of duty by Police and Chowkedars 436, neglect by landholders 193, false complaint 78, bad character 12, fraud 11, gambling 1, cases under Regulation VII of 1819, 29, breach of jail discipline 2, concealment of crime 8, using false weights 1, breaking jail 2, bribery 2, breach of contract 2. In the charges of bad character eleven persons were punished to thirteen released.

41st. The Police Officers sent in 430 persons on their own responsibility and 975 by orders of the Magistrate, releasing 137 on bail, and having eighty-four before them under investigation. The total number coming before the Courts was 3,622.

42nd. Four convicts escaped, two of whom had been re-apprehended.

43rd. Only sixteen Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year.

44th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 34,061-8-10½ The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 4,365-8-9½, and the cost of Establishment 3,036

45th Two Darogahs had been discharged for collusion and neglect in cases of theft and burglary

46th The Securities of the Officers had been revised and found sufficient.

47th Mr T C Trotter was in charge of the District until the 13th October, when he was relieved by Mr W M Beaufort Mr Trotter is a remarkably active and vigilant Officer, keeping a very strict control over the Police

48th Mr E Sandys, who was also relieved by Mr Madocks on the 19th October, was in charge of the Subdivision of Buherah, and conducted his duties every way to my satisfaction Mr Madocks has also, in the performance of the cases made over to him, done credit to himself, and Mr R P Jenkins, who joined as Assistant on the 3rd May, is favorably reported on

PATNA.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	918	1033
Offences against property committed with violence, .	11	9
Offences against property committed without violence,	1173	1432
Malicious offences against property,	5	3
Forgery and offences against the currency,	4	3
Other offences not included in the above, . ..	1425	907

19th In the first class are murder 11, homicide 4, child-stealing 3, assault with wounding 21, rape 1, assault 265, abuse and quarrelling 657, petty affray 5, resistance of process 34, oppression 22, exposing new-born infant 5, suicide 2, attempt at suicide 2, attempt at abortion 1 One of the cases of murder was the death of a new-born infant caused by exposure The mother was sentenced to imprisonment for five years In another case of a similar nature the party was acquitted, owing principally to the connivance of the Mohurir deputed to conduct the preliminary investigation, who reported that the child was born dead In a third, the mother who cut the throat of her infant, was sentenced to imprisonment for life, and two others to three years imprisonment as accessories after the fact In one, two persons, the Chowkeedar and Gomasta of a village, were convicted of concealing the murder of a traveller, name unknown, and there was every reason to believe that the Chowkeedar was the real murderer In two, traces could not be obtained of the criminals in two others, the evidence was not sufficient to warrant commitment, and in one, the murder of a boy for the sake of his ornaments, the Patna Mohurir evinced the most culpable neglect, if not actual desire to screen the real criminal, and on the whole I am not satisfied with the conduct of the Police as regards these offences In all the cases which came before the Magistrate, entered as 27, eighteen persons were

discharged by him, seventeen acquitted at the Sessions, one by the Nizamut, thirteen convicted by the Sessions, five by the Nizamut, and three cases with three prisoners were pending. In two cases of homicide the parties were convicted. In a third, the principals had evaded pursuit, and the fourth was pending. Forty persons had been punished in the assaults with wounding, and in the charges of child-stealing ten were discharged by the Magistrate, and one convicted at the Sessions. The other headings do not call for notice. The returns in them are satisfactory.

50th. The second class is made up of dacoitee with wounding 1, highway robbery with murder 4, highway robbery 2, theft with murder 1, attempt at theft with murder 1. In one of the cases of highway robbery with murder, the prisoners, two drivers of hackeries, who murdered a traveller who had joined them on the road, were sentenced to suffer death, and in another, wherein two emigrant coolies returning from the Mauritius to their homes, were murdered for the sake of the money they had with them by a Chowkeedar and his Naib, in whose charge they had been put for the purpose of conveying them with safety to the next Police Station, the same sentence had been passed. In the other cases no convictions took place. In the simple highway robberies the Magistrate discharged three, the Sessions Judge acquitted two and convicted four persons. In the theft with murder and in the attempt at theft accompanied with murder, both the criminals were sentenced to imprisonment for life. No persons were arrested in the case of dacoitee with wounding, it was committed at Sherepore, a village near Dinapore, and as the dacoits made off in that direction, the gang was supposed to have been composed of some bad characters hanging on about cantonments, very little property was taken, as the noise roused the villagers. There have been no affrays this year, but the two Zemindars named in my last report, viz. Teelukdharee Sing and Bayadur Baboo, were both brought to trial, the first was released by the Magistrate for want of evidence, and the second was acquitted by the Nizamut. Three Chowkeedars, who swore positively to have seen him in the affray, denied it on being confronted with him. They of course had been bought over. They were each sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for perjury.

51st. In the third class are burglary 877, theft 372, cattle-stealing 75, receiving stolen property 2, plunder 21, embezzlement 5, attempt at burglary 52, attempt at theft 28. Seventy burglaries and two hundred and eighty-four thefts were investigated at the request of the parties robbed. One hundred and forty-nine of the former and forty-one of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries seventy-one, and in the thefts 288 persons had been punished. The alleged losses by these offences are not estimated at nearly so high a rate as that given for the past year.

52nd. Three cases of arson, in which no convictions ensued, constitute the fourth class, and in the fifth are three of forgery.

53rd. The sixth is composed of perjury 2, neglect by Chowkeedars 390, neglect by Zemindars 91, neglect by Police, &c., 218, bad character 49, false complaint 75, fraud 18, gambling 18, effecting escape 7, concealing crime 19, abduction of females under Regulation VII. of 1819, 4, bribery 2, desertion of servants 12,

attempt at escape 2 In the charges of bad character sixty-two persons were punished to twenty-eight discharged by the Magistrate

54th The Police sent in 2811 persons on their own responsibility and 561 by orders of the Magistrate, releasing 48 on bail The total number coming before the Courts was 4,310

55th Two hundred Rupees had been paid in reward for the arrest of an European convict, burglars and others

56th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 16,731-7-4 The Chowkedarree Assessment was Rupees 17,742-4, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 17,686-13-6

57th Two convicts had escaped, one of whom was re-captured

58th One Darogah and two Mohurirs had been removed from the Police

59th The Securities of the Officers in charge of the public money had been enquired into and reported sufficient

60th Mr E H Lushington had charge of the district with the exception of a short interval during the year He was assisted by Mr W M Beaufort, in charge of the subdivision of Barh, which towards the close of the year was transferred to the Assistant, Mr R J Richardson, and by Mr F G Cockburn, who was vested with Special Powers on the 14th June Mr Lushington is an active Officer and reports very favorably of his subordinates

B E H A R.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	465	469
Offences against property committed with violence, ...	11	15
Offences against property committed without violence,	1186	1323
Malicious offences against property,	0	6
Forgery and offences against the currency,	1	1
Other offences not included in the above,	494	619

61st In the first class are murder 5, wounding with intent to murder 2, homicide 11, child-stealing 1, affray 1, assault with wounding 18, rape 4, adultery 1, assault 250, riot 26, oppression 34, resistance of process 29, disputing and quarrelling 75, abortion 2, suicide 1. In one case of murder the prisoner who quarrelled with his father struck the latter with a sword in the head, which caused his death, he was sentenced to imprisonment for fourteen years. In the second, the prisoner had been previously subject to fits of insanity He had some words with his brother about the division of some property, and suddenly drawing his sword wounded him His brother

ran out, and the prisoner then entered the female apartments, and there killed his sister, his uncle's wife and his brother's wife, then went out of the house, ran into the house opposite, a large pukka building, and wounding the wife of the owner with his sword took to the roof, where he defended himself for sometime, but at last gave himself up when the Government Vakeel came, to whom alone he said that he would surrender. His nephew, some days before, had informed the Jemadar that his uncle was insane, but on the Jemadar going to him he did not find any thing apparently the matter with him. In the third, three persons brought the corpse of a female to the place where a relation of the Darogah of Shergotty was praying and requested him to repeat the usual prayers over her, which he did. The Darogah hearing this had his suspicions aroused, disinterred the body and examined it, marks of violence were found about the neck, blood about the mouth, and scars, as if of the coral, on her person. She was the slave girl of one of the parties, who were influential and wealthy men, and no direct evidence could be produced against them, the maltreatment having taken place in the zenana. One died pending trial, one was acquitted at the Sessions, two by the Nizamut, and three women were found guilty of privy and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. The two other cases were homicides, and punishments were awarded as for that offence. The Magistrate has included a case of "exposing a new-born infant" under the head of wounding with intent to kill, in that the woman was sentenced to imprisonment for seven years, and in the other case, the criminal was sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment. Twelve cases of homicide were brought to trial during the year in these five persons were discharged by the Magistrate, six acquitted at the Sessions and twelve convicted there. Two out of those released were for thief-killing. In the child-stealing, three persons were discharged. The affair was petty. In the assaults with wounding, thirty persons were punished. Two convictions took place in the charges of rape and adultery, and the remaining heads of this class require no separate notice.

62nd The second class is made up of highway robbery with wounding 2, highway robbery 8, theft with murder 1, theft with murder of a child for its ornaments 1, theft by administering drugs 3. In the two highway robberies with wounding, seven persons were arrested, but discharged for want of proof from five of them security was taken. In the simple cases nineteen persons were arrested, six were discharged by the Magistrate, three acquitted and ten convicted at the Sessions. In the theft with murder and the theft with murder of a child, the two prisoners were each sentenced to imprisonment for life beyond seal. Three cases of theft by drugging are entered, but only two should appear. In the third case the drug was administered, but not taking effect until the traveller had reached a village, where he was taken care of, no theft was committed. The other two occurred on the great road, and no trace could be discovered of the offenders.

63rd In the third class are burglary 651, theft 368, cattle-stealing 117, snatching from the person 15, plundering 27, embezzlement 5, attempt at burglary 111, attempt at theft 29. Forty burglaries and 169 thefts were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, and sixty-nine of the former and 154 of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries twenty-eight were punished,

and in the thefts 205 Twenty-two persons were punished in the above cases for receiving stolen property

64th No convictions took place in the 6 cases of arson forming the fourth class during the year, but one case with three persons was pending

65th One case of possessing base coin is in the fifth class, and in that the Magistrate punished the party

66th The sixth class is composed of perjury 5, notorious bad character 41, contempt of Court 52, misconduct of prisoners 16, neglect of Jail Officers 22, neglect of Police Officers 67, neglect of Chowkedars 316, neglect of Zemindars 34, false complaint 50, illegal assemblage 5, escape 5, cases under Regulation VII of 1819 3, bribery 3 In the charges of bad character fifty-four persons were punished to fifty-two discharged

67th The Police Officers sent in 765 persons on their own responsibility, and 711 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 144 on bail and having thirteen under investigation The total number coming before the Courts was 2,678

68th Two convicts had escaped, who were re-apprehended

69th Two hundred and seventy Rupees had been paid as commission to Nowringhee Lall, Darogah of Gyah, and three Bukundazes, who had exerted themselves in the recovery of stolen property I am sorry to report the death of the above excellent Officer, whose name has been frequently mentioned with distinction in my Reports

70th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,745 The Chowkedarree Assessment was Rupees 15,936-11-6 and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 8,932-6-9

71st One Darogah, one Mohurn and a Jamadar had been removed from the Police

72nd The Securities of Officers had been revised and found sufficient.

73rd Mr G G Balfour was in charge of the district during the year, and I have reason to be satisfied with his exertions. Mr Balfour reports favorably of Mr Rose, his Assistant. Mr Wilson, the Deputy Magistrate at Nowada, is a very active and efficient Officer, and his location at that place has been of great benefit in detecting and suppressing crime.

MONG HIR.

	1817	1818
Offences against the person,	1024	888
Offences against property committed with violence	5	5
Offences against property committed without violence,	707	915
Malicious offences against property,	6	2
Forgery and offences against the currency,	3	0
Other offences not included in the above,	438	422

74th In the first class are murder 7, homicide 6, assault with wounding 10, abuse 12, assault 485, oppression 340, resistance of process 27, attempt at murder 1. In the murders fourteen persons were brought to trial, of this number one was acquitted by the Nizamut, nine convicted at the Sessions, two by the Nizamut and one case with two prisoners was pending. In the first case committed is murder, two prisoners were convicted by the Sessions Judge of culpable homicide. The case originated from a dispute regarding the detention of some bullocks too long in ploughing. One case was infanticide, the mother of the infant was convicted. In a third, the prisoner was sentenced capitally. In a fourth, which ought to have been entered under heading 20, being a charge of murder of a child for its ornaments, the prisoner was acquitted by the Superior Court. The case which was pending was one of poisoning, and there can be no doubt of the guilt of the two persons. The poison administered was "dakra," a deadly vegetable poison, causing death by most violent inflammation, but not traceable by any chemical tests. A portion of the sweetmeat, in which the poison was administered, vomited up by the unfortunate man, and the contents of the stomach were forwarded to the chemical examiner, but no poison was discovered in the first, and the bottle containing the contents of the stomach exploded. The examination of this would have been equally unsatisfactory with that of the sweetmeat. The parties were released. In the homicides sixteen persons were brought to trial, of these seven were discharged by the Magistrate, five acquitted and four convicted at the Sessions. Besides the assaults with wounding entered is having occurred during the year, eleven others, which took place in the previous year, were brought to trial. In the whole fifty-one persons were punished to seventeen released. The returns in the minor cases are satisfactory. The attempt at murder was the exposure of a new-born infant, the mother was convicted of the offence.

75th The second class is composed of dacoitee with wounding 1, burglary with wounding 1, theft with murder 1, theft with wounding 1, affray about land 1. Although the number of offences is small, yet the results are not so satisfactory as they might have been. The dacoitee with wounding took place about the end of the year, and the Police sent in, on the most conflicting and improbable evidence, fifteen persons, whom the Magistrate most properly discharged as innocent of the offence, but after the close of the year, a clue was obtained by Pygumber Bux, second grade Darogah of Thannah Mullypore, and two persons had been convicted of this offence and a third sent in. These persons had been concerned in more than one dacoitee. The burglary with wounding was pending. In the theft with murder, although there was suspicion against the person sent in, whom the deceased, an old woman and a

"purda nusheen," declared she identified from his appearance, yet there was no proof, and there was such delay in taking the statement of the deceased and such general remissness on the part of the Darogah and the Police Officers employed, that any further enquiries were hopeless. The theft with wounding was pending. The affray or riot was not of a serious nature, and the Magistrate disposed of it by punishing those engaged on one side only.

76th. In the third class are burglary 483, theft 295, cattle-stealing 46, receiving stolen property 9, embezzlement 3, attempt at burglary 42, attempt at theft 37. Sixty-nine burglaries and 190 thefts were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed. 224 of the former and sixty-nine of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries forty-six and in the thefts 157 persons were punished, five were also convicted of receiving stolen property.

77th. In the fourth class are two cases of arson, in one of which the party was convicted at the Sessions. The fifth class is blank.

78th. In the sixth are perjury 7, collusion 46, concealing crime 4, escape from custody 1, fraud 14, frivolous complaint 61, neglect by Police and Chowkedars 251, neglect by Zemindars 14, bad character 24. In thirty cases of bad character which came before the Magistrate, forty-six persons were punished to fifteen discharged.

79th. The Police sent in 596 persons on their own authority and 849 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing eight only on bail. The total number coming before the Courts was 2,484.

80th. Sixty Rupees had been paid in rewards of small sums for the apprehension of offenders.

81st. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 6,782-8-8, the Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 6,579-7-3, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 5,988.

82nd. One prisoner escaped, but was re-apprehended very shortly.

83rd. One Darogah and twelve Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police.

84th. The Securities of the Officers in charge of money had been revised and reported sufficient.

85th. Mr. D. Cunliffe was in charge of the district during the year. Mr. Cunliffe is a very hard-working, zealous Officer, and I must say by paying early attention to boundary disputes, takes the best method of preventing affrays. He was assisted very ably by Mr. A. Money with the powers of Joint Magistrate until October, and by Mr. Heywood with special powers during the year. Mr. Vincent, was Deputy Magistrate at the Sudder Station, and is reported on very favorably.

BHAUGULPORE.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	559	590
Offences against property committed with violence,	10	10
Offences against property committed without violence,.....	1042	1101
Malicious offences against property,	8	11
Forgery and offences against the currency,	7	0
Other offences not included in the above,	1217	1176

86th In the first class are murder 16, homicide 9, assault with wounding 19, rape 8, oppression 204, assault 307, making away with persons 6, procuring abortion 2, suicide 11, attempt at murder 2, attempt at rape 1, attempt at suicide 5. Although sixteen murders are entered, yet four of these occurred in the previous year, and were brought to light, or entered in the statements of the current twelve months. In one of these a woman, who it is supposed at the suggestion of her paramour poisoned her husband and sister-in-law and attempted to poison another, was sentenced to suffer death. In the whole the Magistrate discharged twenty, the Sessions Judge acquitted nine, and the Nizamut two persons, whilst twelve were convicted at the Sessions, three by the Nizamut, and four cases with nine prisoners were pending. In one of the cases, where the prisoner was punished by the Superior Court, it appeared that two children were grazing goats and playing about the village when the prisoner, who was intoxicated, came up, and without any provocation so severely wounded them about the head and face with a sword as to cause the death of one. His defence was that he was drunk and unconscious whether he committed the offence or not. Another of the cases was more a riot with homicide arising out of a dispute regarding land, and the punishments awarded were for such an offence. Several of the charges could not be brought home against the parties accused, although circumstances appeared which rendered it very probable that they had committed, or been privy to the crimes. In the culpable homicides the Magistrate discharged seventeen, the Sessions Judge acquitted seven and convicted ten persons, two were also punished on reference to the Nizamut. The cases principally originated in sudden disputes. One, in which five persons were acquitted, was a charge of causing death by procuring abortion. In the assaults with wounding, forty-seven persons were punished. All the cases of rape were dismissed. In the attempt at murder one prisoner was convicted of severe wounding, and one case with one person on bail was pending. The other headings do not call for notice.

87th The second class is composed of dacoitee 3, highway robbery 4, affray 3. In one of the cases of dacoitee fourteen persons were convicted of the offence. In this the Naib Sezawal of the Hill Thannah Kurhureea evinced great activity and had a reward of 100 Rupees paid him. In the other two, no traces of the offenders were discovered. In the highway robberies no convictions followed the arrests made. The affrays (about land) were petty, and disposed of by the Magistrate.

88th. In the third class are burglary 239, theft 506, cattle-stealing 68, receiving stolen property 2, embezzlement 1, attempt at burglary 242, attempt at theft 43.

Sixteen cases of burglary and 207 of theft were investigated at the requisition of the parties robbed. Forty-two of the former and 137 of the latter by order of the Magistrate. In the burglaries forty-one, and in the thefts 213 persons had been punished, five were also convicted of receiving stolen property.

89th Eleven charges of arson constitute the fourth class. In two cases the prisoners were convicted by the Sessions Judge. In one of these, the defendants, six in number, were peons of the Collectorate, who had been dispatched to some Villages within the Hill Thannah of Lukerdewanny to bring in certain Pykes. They went to the house of the Ghatwal and demanded something to eat, particularly "Ghee," which not being given to them, they set fire to the premises.

90th The fifth class is blank, and in the sixth are perjury 2, neglect of duty 621, disobedience of orders 181, bad character 35, fraud 15, contumacy 129, false complaint 68, retaining unclaimed property 33, concealing offences 28, quitting service 26, enticing away women 6, illegal assemblage 4, misconduct 5, harbouring offenders 2, giving false deposition 2, escape 8, bribery 5, gambling 4, possessing a sind kuttee 1, threatening injury 1. In the charges of bad character twenty-one persons were punished to twenty-seven released.

91st. The Police sent in 607 persons on their own responsibility and 1,775 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 287 on bail and having twenty under investigation.

92nd One hundred and twenty Rupees had been paid in rewards, 100 of this sum was paid to the Naib Sezawal above referred to.

93rd The Ferry Collections were Rupees 9,228-12-4. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 6,486-9, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 6,441.

94th No convicts had escaped.

95th One Darogah had been dismissed for confining a person fifteen days in a petty case in the Thannah.

96th The Securities of the Officers had been revised and declared sufficient.

97th Mr W H Brodhurst was in general charge of the district during the year. Mr W C Watson exercised the powers of Joint Magistrate, and was in charge of the Hill Thannahs. Mr H C Rakes was Assistant, and was vested with special powers on the 1st May. Mr H Doveton, Deputy Magistrate, was in charge of the sub-division of Mudhepoorah, and had full powers given him on the 1st May. Mr W H. Brodhurst has continued the same strict supervision as mentioned in my last report. The other Officers have all conducted the duties entrusted to them in a satisfactory manner.

P U R N E A H.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	706	667
Offences against property committed with violence, .	10	9
Offences against property committed without violence,	767	855
Malicious offences against property,	5	7
Forgery and offences against the currency, - .	3	0
Other offences not included in the above,	591	454

98th In the first class* are murder 13, homicide 5, murder of a child for its ornaments 1, affray 2, assault with wounding 12, rape 1, assault 365, oppression 172, resistance of process 103, branding 1, suicide 1, attempt at suicide 1 In one case of murder the husband murdered his wife and immediately cut his own throat His neighbours declared him to have been insane. In another, out of two prisoners, one was acquitted by the Nizamut, and the other sentenced to imprisonment in transportation for life In a third, the prisoner was convicted of aggravated culpable homicide, and sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment. In another, four prisoners who caused the death of a thief, subsequent to his capture, by forcing a stick up his fundament, were each sentenced to imprisonment for seven years In the murder of a child for the sake of its ornaments, the prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment in transportation for life One prisoner was sentenced to suffer death for the murder of his wife, and another, a Keeluk, who was an accomplice in the murder of one of the Nujeeb guard some years back, was brought to trial this year and sentence of transportation passed on him In all the cases which came before the Magistrate, seventeen in number, ten persons were discharged by him, one acquitted at the Sessions, one by the Nizamut, seven convicted at the Sessions, eight punished on reference to the Supreme Court, and two cases were pending In the homicides, six persons were discharged, six acquitted in two cases, and one convicted at the Sessions, and one case was pending The affrays were petty and disposed of by the Magistrate In the assaults with wounding twenty-five persons were punished to ten released The case of rape was pending, and in the other headings the returns are satisfactory

99th. In the second class are dacoitee with murder 1, dacoitee with torture 1, dacoitee 3, river dacoitee 1, highway robbery with murder 1, highway robbery with wounding 1, highway robbery 1, burglary with wounding 1 The results in these cases are any thing but satisfactory I believe the story of the dacoitee with murder to have been got up by the plaintiff, for the purpose of concealing the murder of his servant by himself, on account of an intrigue with a female connexion of his residing in the house. The plaintiff is notoriously poor, the club with which the blow was struck was found and belongs to him, and although he declares the dacoit brought that from an out-house, it is not likely that dacoits would come without weapons, and have to depend on what they might find at the house they attacked. The only two persons, the females who reside in the house, who could give information, support the plaintiff's story In the dacoitee with *torture* or rather with *beating*, the Police were unable to trace out or arrest any of the offenders In two out of the three unattended with aggravating circumstances, the endeavours of the

Police have been unattended with success, although strong suspicion exists against a body of Sikhs, who are settled in and about the village of Kuntnaggur, several of whom are bad characters and who absconded when the Police went in quest of them. In the third, which was pending, seven persons were under trial. The river dacoitee took place in August, and was at first supposed by the Magistrate to have been a false charge, got up by the servant of the owner of the goods and the crew to conceal their having made away with the property. The Darogah of Kishengunge whilst enquiring into a another case, procured information which led to the discovery of the perpetrators of this, and eleven persons had been arrested at the close of the year, and eventually nineteen were made over to the Sessions since the commencement of this year. In the highway robbery with murder, the Magistrate discharged three persons and three were under trial. In that with wounding five had been convicted at the Sessions, six were discharged by the Magistrate in the simple case, and in the burglary with wounding two persons were convicted at the Sessions.

100th. The third class is composed of burglary 373, theft 249, cattle-stealing 73, receiving stolen property 5, embezzlement 1, attempt at burglary 141, attempt at theft 14. Forty-eight cases of burglary and 131 of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, but *not one* appears to have been taken up by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries forty-four, and in the thefts 121 persons had been punished. Four persons were convicted of receiving stolen property.

101st. Seven cases of arson compose the fourth class, in one of which one prisoner was convicted.

102nd. The fifth class is blank, and in the sixth are perjury 2, neglect of duty by Chowkedars, &c. 351, bad character 25, false complaint 29, contumacy 9, riot 2, extortion 7, retaining unclaimed property 6, quitting service 8, using short weights 2, neglect by Zemindars 3, contempt of Court 4, escape from custody 4, concealing crime 2. In the charges of bad character twenty-seven persons were punished to the same number discharged.

103rd. The Police sent in 371 persons on their own authority and 736 by order of the Magistrate, releasing 262 on bail. The total number coming before the Courts was 2,780.

104th. Two convicts had escaped who had not been re-apprehended.

105th. One hundred and seventy-seven Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year.

106th. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 2,251, the Chowkedarree Assessment was Rupees 5,368-15, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 4,002.

107th. One Jemadai had been removed for extortion.

108th. The Securities of the Officers in charge of money have been revised and found sufficient.

109th Mr F. Drummond, who was Magistrate, died in May, and since then, with the exception of one month, Mr E. S. Pearson has been in charge of the district, assisted by Mr Perry, Deputy Magistrate at Kishengunge, Mr Doveton at Mudchipoorah and Mr Chapman at the Sudder Station Mr Pearson reports favorably of the labors of all these Officers Mr Perry has a troublesome portion of the district under him

DINAGPORE.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	585	608
Offences against property committed with violence,	18	17
Offences against property committed without violence,	1928	1804
Malicious offences against property,	8	6
Forgery and offences against the currency,	1	5
Other offences not included in the above,	426	393

110th In the first class are murder 5, homicide 7, child-stealing 1, affray 1, assault with wounding 1, assault and oppression 590, attempt to murder by poisoning 1, attempt at affray 2 In the cases of murder, two persons were discharged by the Magistrate, one acquitted by the Nizamut and thirteen convicted on reference to that Court. The first case was that of a mother who drowned her infant son, being unable, as she said, to bear the constant ill-usage of her husband She was sentenced to imprisonment for life The second was the murder of a child for its ornaments, the principal was sentenced to suffer death, and a prostitute, an accessory after the fact, to imprisonment for three years In another similar case two prisoners were sentenced to imprisonment for life In the fourth, where the deceased had an intrigue with a neighbour's wife and was caught in her company by the husband and some friends and murdered, eight parties were sentenced to different periods of imprisonment. In the last case the prisoner was acquitted, the only evidence against him being his own confession that he had killed the deceased whilst conveying away property obtained by burglary In three cases of homicides convictions ensued. In one the party was acquitted, in two there were only suspicions against the accused, and there were no bodies found or proof of the absences having died, and in another the accused was discharged from the graver charge and punished for an assault The case of child-stealing was pending The affray was not serious, and in the other headings the results are satisfactory In the attempt to murder by administering poison, the prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment in banishment for life

111th The second class is composed of dacoitee 16, highway robbery 1 I am very sorry to observe the very great want of success in the operations of the Police In the dacoitees, I find 101 persons discharged by the Magistrate, thirty acquitted at the

Sessions, and one case with six prisoners pending. Eight of the dacoitees were certainly very petty, and the property carried off such as not easily to be identified, still such total want of success in so many cases speaks but little for the knowledge which the Police have of the bad characters in their several jurisdictions. Mr Scott attributes these bad results partly to intimidation, from his having had to punish early in the year a case of bundolla by the Police, and that those men suspected of being concerned in these dacoitees, threatened, if arrested, to prefer similar complaints against those Police Officers who might act against them. In the dacoitee with murder, which occurred at the close of 1847, twenty prisoners were sentenced to imprisonment in transportation for life, and one to imprisonment for seven years. The Darogah of Ryarampore, Rm Koomar Biswas, distinguished himself by his activity in this case. In the highway robbery the prisoner was punished.

112th. In the third class are burglary 850, theft 485, cattle-stealing 159, attempt at burglary 305, attempt at theft 5. Ninety-seven of the burglaries and 178 thefts were taken up at the request of the parties robbed, but none by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries fifty-one, and in the thefts 103 persons had been punished. Although no cases of the receiving of stolen property are entered, yet ten persons were convicted in the above cases of that offence.

113th. In the fourth class are 6 cases of arson, in which no convictions took place, and the fifth is made up of 2 of forgery, both pending, and 3 of counterfeiting coin, in one of which a regular organized gang of seven coiners was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

114th. In the sixth class are neglect on the part of Police Chowkeedars and others 303, neglect by Zemindars 1, contempt of Court 14, disobedience of orders 4, false complaint 10, bad character 4, concealing crime 6, vagrancy 10, retaining unclaimed property 6, fraud 2, absconding 3, cases under Regulation VII of 1819, 31, harbouring escaped convict 1. Considering the proportion of dacoitees burglaries and thefts shown in these returns, the number of persons arrested as bad characters is but small. Seven were punished to two released.

115th. The Police Officers sent in 555 persons on their own authority and 113 by orders of the Magistrate, releasing 541 on bail. The total number coming before the Courts was 2,159.

116th. Fourteen hundred Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year. Five hundred of these were paid for the arrest of Khyradee, the notorious dacoit, escaped from the Bhaugulpore Jail, and six hundred to three Darogahs for good conduct, in two cases of dacoitee occurring in the past year.

117th. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,930. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 3,666-15-6, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 3,372-4-9.

118th. No convicts had escaped.

119th. One Mohurrir had been dismissed from the Police.

120th The Securities of the Officers had been revised and reported sufficient.

121st. Mr R Scott was in charge of the district during the year. He is an active and intelligent Officer. Mr G Cowper was Assistant.

MALDAH.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	588	469
Offences against property committed with violence, ..	10	• 8
Offences against property committed without violence,	278	212
Malicious offences against property, . . .	5	7
Forgery and offences against the currency, . . .	0	0
Other offences not included in the above, . . .	197	139

122nd In the first class are murder 1, affray 2, assault with wounding 2, petty affray 26, assault 435, attempt at affray 3. In the murder no arrest had taken place. The affrays were not of any consequence, and in them fifteen persons had been punished by the Magistrate. In the assaults with wounding five persons had been convicted, and in the minor cases the results are satisfactory. I must observe that as regards heinous offences, this class exhibits a marked difference with the returns of those in previous years, and was not concealment of murders and homicides generally uncommon, only occurring when influential persons are implicated, I should feel inclined to suspect *that* in the present case.

123rd The second class is composed of dacoitee 7, attempt at dacoitee 1. None of these cases were of any serious consequence. The Magistrate discharged twenty persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted twenty-one, and in three cases convicted nineteen. No arrests were made in the attempt to commit dacoitee. The villagers assembled in considerable numbers before the dacoits could effect their purpose, and the gang made off as quickly as possible.

124th In the third class are burglary 63, theft 98, cattle-stealing 6, receiving stolen property 1, plundering 28, absconding with property 8, attempt at burglary 31, attempt at theft 7. Fourteen cases of burglary and fifty-one of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, and eleven of theft by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries twelve persons were acquitted at the Sessions, five convicted there and three persons punished by the Magistrate. In the thefts forty persons were punished by the Magistrate and five convicted at the Sessions. Only one person was punished for receiving stolen property.

125th Two charges of arson, in which no convictions took place, and 5 of destroying crops compose the fourth class, and the fifth is blank.

126th In the sixth class are neglect by Chowkeedars, &c, 67, disobedience of orders 19, cases under Regulation VII of 1819, 20, false complaint 11, bad charac-

ter 7, bribery 12, allowing a thief to escape 1, accusing a party of procuring abortion 2 In the charges of bad character twelve persons were punished to fourteen discharged

127th The Police sent in 181 persons on their own authority and forty-nine by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing eighty-one on bail The total number coming before the Courts was 697

128th Three convicts had escaped, who had not been re-apprehended

129th Sixty Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year

130th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 762, the Chowkeedarree Assessment was 1,252-6-4, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 1,260, being in excess of the Assessment

131st The Securities of Officers in charge of public money had been revised and found sufficient

132nd Mr Kemp was Joint Magistrate, but was frequently absent on private affairs and from bad health up to the 21st August, when he went away, and Mr F B Drummond, his Assistant, took charge I have always found these frequent changes have a bad effect The Police Officers invariably take advantage of them to avoid exerting themselves in the discovery or prevention of crime

R A J S H A H Y E.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	714	897
Offences against property committed with violence,	16	20
Offences against property committed without violence,	428	633
Mulicious offences against property,.... .	0	2
Forgery and offences against the currency,	3	2
Other offences not included in the above,	750	1,026

133rd In the first class are murder 6, homicide 3, assault with wounding 6, rape 2, assault 455, oppression 423, resistance of process 1, procuring abortion 1 In one case of murder, in which a servant of an influential Zemindar was made over for trial for the murder of a prostitute, the prisoner was acquitted The Zemindar had by maltreatment caused some persons to depose at first so as to implicate another party, and the second enquiry elicited the circumstances against the servant. The evidence produced in supplementary enquiries is usually a failure In the second, five persons charged with the murder of a party with whom the wife of one of the prisoners had an intrigue, were acquitted by the Commissioner holding the Sessions. In a third, there was not sufficient evidence to warrant the commitment

of the accused who was suspected of having murdered his wife. In a fourth the criminals had absconded, and a fifth occurred at the close of the year the prisoner was under trial. In one case alone conviction ensued, and in that one man was convicted as principal and three as accessories. In all, eleven appear in the statements as punished on reference to the Nizamut, but seven of these were for crimes committed in 1847. In the homicides the Magistrate discharged ten, and the Sessions Judge convicted one person. In the assaults with wounding, thirteen were punished. In one charge of rape the accused was convicted on reference to the Nizamut, and the returns in the remaining headings are satisfactory.

134th The second class is composed of dacoitee with torture 1, dacoitee 15, river dacoitee 1, highway robbery 1, attempt at dacoitee 2. In the dacoitee with torture, thirteen persons convicted of the offence by the Commissioner holding the Sessions, were subsequently acquitted by the orders of the Nizamut. In the dacoitees the Magistrate discharged twenty-one, the Sessions Judge acquitted ten and convicted fifty-seven persons. All of the latter were released by orders of the Nizamut, yet the return of the trials at the Sessions, states them to have been found guilty on full legal proofs. No arrests took place in the river dacoitee which occurred on the Burrall river, and the same was the result in the highway robbery and two attempts at dacoitee, so that in the offences of this class there have either been no arrests, or no eventual convictions of the parties made over for trial.

135th. In the third class are burglary 121, theft 135, cattle-stealing 17, attempt at burglary 359, attempt at theft 1. The number of attempts at burglary, in comparison with the offences actually committed, must excite a suspicion that many of the cases are reported falsely for the purpose of avoiding the inconvenience of an enquiry. Twenty-six cases of burglary and sixty of theft, were enquired into, at the request of the parties robbed. Ten of the former and nine of the latter, by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries only six, and in the thefts fifty-six persons had been punished. Although no cases of receiving stolen property are entered, yet thirteen persons were punished, under that head in the above offences.

136th Two charges of arson, in which no convictions took place, constitute the fourth class, whilst the fifth is made up of forgery 1, counterfeiting coin 1, in which no arrests were made.

137th In the sixth are perjury 1, neglect of duty by Zemindars 201, neglect by Chowkeedars 442, contempt of Court 90, fraud 47, illegal concealment 5, concealing crime 38, bad character 55, disobedience of orders 57, false complaint 81, resistance of process 1, cases under Regulation VII. of 1819, 2, collusion 3, escape from custody 4, bribery 1. In the cases of bad character thirty-six persons had been punished by the Magistrate, but many of these were subsequently released on appeal by the Sessions Judge.

138th. The Police Officers sent in 743 persons on their own authority, and 1,004 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing only two on bail. The total number coming before the Courts was 2,468.

139th. Four convicts had escaped, but were all re-captured

140th. Six hundred and twenty-seven Rupees had been paid for the apprehension of various offenders amongst fifty-three different persons.

141st. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,995-5-7 The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 5,503-8, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 4,787-0-3

142nd One Mohurir had been removed from the Police

143rd The Securities of Officers in charge of public money had been revised and found sufficient

144th Mr A A Swinton was in charge of the district during the year, he is a very pains-taking Officer Mr Muspratt assisted him for a short time with the powers of Joint Magistrate Baboo Kissorsce Chund Mittra was Deputy Magistrate at the Sudder Station, with special powers to the 28th October, when he was appointed with full powers to the subdivision of Nattore He is an active and efficient Officer

P U B N A H.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	586	490
Offences against property committed with violence,	14	11
Offences against property committed without violence, ..	616	674
Mahcious offences against property, . ..	60	44
Forgery and offences against the currency,	0	0
Other offences not included in the above,	333	291

145th In the first class are murder 11, homicide 4, assault with wounding 11, rape 1, affray 5, oppression 23, assault 358, petty affrays 40, resistance of process 37. Amongst the murders is entered that of the Darogah reported in my letter No. 1664, of the 24th July In this one person, who was sworn to as one of those who speared the Darogah, has been since the close of the year sentenced to transportation beyond Sea for life, and three more to imprisonment for fourteen years, the rest were acquitted, the Court merely remarking that it was not satisfied with the evidence. Another party has been arrested against whom there is stronger evidence of having also speared the Darogah I confess that I did not expect many of the criminals to have been convicted in this case. The attack was sudden and made by a mob of armed men infuriated with liquor The party with the Magistrate and Darogah was so small and so defenceless, that each was more occupied in providing for his own safety than in endeavouring to recognize any amongst the attacking party, and that any were recognized was owing to their remaining and mutilating the corpse of the Darogah on the banks of the river The unfortunate man, I have no doubt, had recognized and addressed by name some of the foremost in the attack, for they were

all ryots on the estate, when he was instantly run through with a "surkoa." By the time the Magistrate could procure a re-inforcement, not only the immediate neighbourhood, but all the villages round, were completely deserted, and many of those implicated have not yet made their appearance in that quarter. In the other cases of murder, two of which were those of women by their husbands, four persons were discharged by the Magistrate, six acquitted at the Sessions, three convicted there, and six by the Nizamut. In the homicides one person was discharged by the Magistrate, one acquitted and one convicted at the Sessions, and one case was pending. In the assaults with wounding, thirty-seven persons had been punished. In the charges of rape no arrests had been made. In the affrays, one of which was attended with severe wounding, twenty-one persons were punished, ten of whom were sentenced by the Sessions Judge, and in the remaining headings the results are satisfactory.

146th In the second class are dacoitee with murder 1, dacoitee with wounding 1, dacoitee 3, highway robbery 1, attempt at dacoitee 5. In the dacoitee with murder, I regret to say, three parties committed were acquitted by the Sessions Judge. The dacoitee with wounding, was the attack on Mr. Kenny's house, also reported by my letter of the 24th July last, No. 1664. It is, I suppose, included under this head, according to the definition of dacoitee in Regulation LIII of 1803. Out of the eighteen prisoners committed to the Sessions, eleven were acquitted by that Court and the remaining seven were released by orders of the Nizamut. 1st—That Court observed that Mr. Kenny or the Government ought to have been made prosecutor, but Mr. Kenny was absent and could only have spoken from hearsay. 2nd—That Mrs. Kenny, the Assistant, and Mr. Kenny's principal Omlah, should have been examined, but Mrs. Kenny and the Assistant could only have deposed to the general circumstances of the case and could not have recognized a single individual. The principals of Mr. Kenny's Omlah were with him at Magorrah, one of those left behind ran off before the attack, on seeing the party of men approaching, and the other was in concealment, fearing for his life, and he did give evidence, which was not considered trustworthy. 3rd—That an immediate search should have been made by the Joint Magistrate, who was on the spot for the recovery of the body of the wounded or slain man, and he should have taken the evidence procurable there, but the Joint Magistrate had galloped over from Pubnah completely unattended on hearing of the attack, and only reached the Factory at eight in the evening, and he then had to make arrangements for the defence of the house, in case of an attack during the night and to send for the Police. The next morning when he proceeded to arrest the rioters, he was himself disabled by his horse falling on him, his small party attacked and driven back by an overwhelming mob and his Darogah killed before his face, and he had to retreat into the house and send for further re-inforcements from Planters and Zemindars before he could act, so that the rioters had plenty of time, if the man was murdered and his corpse carried off, to make away with the body. The Joint Magistrate did not take the evidence of the above-named parties, because he was aware that they could say nothing beyond the general facts of the attack, and could not identify persons. The mistake made by the Joint Magistrate was going to arrest in person without being accompanied by a sufficient force, and the mistake on the part of the prosecution was the omission of the witnesses to mention *at first* the

plunder of 1,500 Rs. from an Iron Chest, which they subsequently detailed, and which, with some other circumstances and contradictions, threw doubts on their credibility. This cowardly attack, I have every reason to believe, from what I have since heard, was carried out according to the orders of one of the female proprietors of the estate of Begumabad by their managers, who are notorious bad characters, and one of whom had not long before been released from the Nuddceah Jail. In the simple dacoitees four persons had been discharged by the Magistrate and one case with four prisoners was pending. In one of the cases the Darogah might have got a clue, but he evinced the greatest neglect. No convictions took place in the highway robbery and in the attempts to commit dacoitee, no arrests were made.

147th The third class is composed of burglary 132, theft 102, cattle-stealing 22, attempt at burglary 317, attempt at theft 1. The number of attempts to commit burglary compared with the number in which the crime was completed, is suspicious. Enquiries were instituted into twenty-five cases of burglary and forty-five of theft, at the request of the parties robbed, and into five cases of the former and thirteen of the latter, by orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries ten and in the thefts seventy persons were punished.

148th Two cases of arson, 41 of attack and plunder of houses, and 1 of plunder of cattle are in the fourth class. In the arsons all the parties sent in were discharged, and in the other cases forty-one persons were punished.

149th The fifth class is blank and in the sixth are abduction 1, appropriating unclaimed property 1, collusion 1, cases under Regulation VII of 1819, 18, contempt of Court 16, escape from custody 1, extortion 2, entering house with bad intent 1, false complaint 59, fraudulently receiving money 2, killing a sacred bull 1, neglect and official misconduct 62, neglect by Chowkeedars 89, receiving and selling a lost Bank-note 1, trespass 36.

150th The Police sent in 311 persons on their own authority and 139 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing twenty-two on bail. The total number coming before the Courts was 1,290.

151st One hundred Rupees had been paid in a reward during the year for the arrest of Hurroo Sirdar, since sentenced to imprisonment for life in the case of the murder of the Darogah.

152nd The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,174-15-6, the Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 1,956, and the annual expenditure was Rupees 1,872.

153rd Four prisoners had escaped, three of whom were re-apprehended.

154th One Darogah, two Mohurrirs and ten Burkundauses had been dismissed from the Police for neglect, collusion and incapacity.

155th The Securities of the Officers in charge of money have been enquired into and reported sufficient.

156th Mr. Wheler was in charge of the district during the year. He is an active and efficient Officer, and I must say, that his conduct in proceeding at once and so quickly, having to cross two rivers (the Puddur and Gorale) to Mrs Kenny's assistance, does him great credit. Mr J C. Dodgson was his Assistant with special powers. Since the Begumabad Estate and that of Tantee Booneea have been brought under the Court of Wards, the district has been perfectly tranquil, with a decrease in all offences. It is by the managers of the minor and disqualified Proprietors of these Estates, that a great portion of the litigation and disputes, leading to breaches of the Peace, were fomented and kept up for their own advantage.

R U N G P O R E.

	1847.	1848
Offences against the person,	610	545
Offences against property committed with violence,..	9	11
Offences against property committed without violence, . . .	496	469
Malicious offences against property,.....	5	0
Forgery and offences against the currency,	1	8
Other offences not included in the above,	123	104

157th In the first class are murder 5, homicide 7, assault with wounding 38, assault 483, resistance of process 10, oppression 1, false imprisonment 1. In one of the cases of murder, the prisoner who murdered his wife by cutting her throat, was sentenced to suffer death. In a second, six parties, a Zemindaree Officer and others, who beat the deceased to death, because he had gained a suit in Court regarding some land of which he had been dispossessed, were sentenced by the Nizamut to fourteen years' imprisonment. In the whole of the cases two persons were discharged by the Magistrate, one acquitted at the Sessions, one convicted there, eight convicted by the Nizamut and one died. The returns for homicide show three convicted of the offence, but the reports of the Magistrate state four to have been punished, and one case with three prisoners was pending. In the assaults with wounding, seventy-three persons had been punished to fifty-four discharged, and in the other headings the results are satisfactory.

158th. The second class is heavier than that exhibited in the returns of the past year, and consists of dacoitee with murder 2, dacoitee with wounding 5, dacoitee 4. In one of the dacoitees with murder, the Police, although they apprehended some parties, were unable to procure sufficient evidence to warrant their commitment. In another which was pending at the end of the year, the parties were apprehended, principally through the activity of Ram Kant Doss, Jemadar of Thannah Molung, and fifteen were made over to the Sessions Court, and since the close of the year they had been convicted and the proceedings referred to the Nizamut for final orders. The parties concerned were mostly new hands, debtors to the deceased, and one of their objects was to get hold of their bonds. They murdered the deceased with great cruelty. In the dacoitees with wounding, no convictions took place, and in the simple offences

thirty persons were discharged by the Magistrate, five acquitted and four convicted at the Sessions, and one case with eight prisoners, was pending before that Court.

159th In the third class are burglary 285, theft 125, cattle-stealing 42, forcibly taking goods 10, breach of trust 1, embezzlement 1, attempt at burglary 5 One hundred cases of burglary and eighty-four of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, and seventeen of the former and thirty-six of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate In the burglaries twenty-seven, and in the thefts sixty-three persons were punished Ten were also convicted of forcibly taking goods.

160th The fourth class is blank, and in the fifth are 6 cases of forgery and 2 of counterfeiting coin The last with seven prisoners was pending

161st The sixth class is composed of bad character 8, neglect of Police and Chowkeedars 39, neglect of Zemindars 2, breach of contract 11, extortion 2, false complaint 14, contempt of Court 21, escape from custody 1, entering house with bad intent 1, seduction 2, bribery 1, fraud 2 In the charges of bad character twelve persons were punished

162nd The Police Officers sent in 484 persons on their own responsibility and eighty-eight by orders of the Magistrate, releasing 215 on bail and having ten in custody The total number coming before the Courts is entered as 1,161, but I think that is an error and it should be 1,733

163rd Two prisoners escaped from jail, one of whom had been re-apprehended.

164th Two hundred Rupees had been paid in rewards, one hundred and fifty of these were paid to the Police Officers, who evinced activity in the case of dacoitee with murder

165th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 5,261-6-4, the Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 2,300-12, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 1,950

166th Two Darogahs had been removed from the Police, one for gross neglect and the other for continued absence without leave.

167th The Securities of the Officers in charge of public money had been revised and reported sufficient

168th Mr A G Macdonald was in charge of the district during the year. In the dacoitee with murder, he evinced much activity, and by his presence and proceedings on the spot, contributed much to the conviction of the prisoners.

B O G R A H.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	269	326
Offences against property committed with violence,	11	14
Offences against property committed without violence, .. .	1456	1772
Malicious offences against property,	7	10
Forgery and offences against the currency,	2	1
Other offences not included in the above,	211	229

169th In the first class are murder 6, homicide 8, affray 5, assault with wounding 6, rape 4, assault 276, resistance of process 20, attempt at rape 1. The first murder was one in which the death of the unfortunate man was caused by the torture and cruelties inflicted on him by Soojat-Oodeen Darogah, Budroodeen Jemadar and other Police Officers of Thannah Lall Bazaar, to compel him to confess that he had been concerned in a dacoitee, which had occurred within the limits of that Thannah. Notice was sent to the Joint Magistrate by two Burkundauzes, who were in the neighbourhood, and the Bograh Darogah, an exceedingly good Officer, was sent out to investigate. I am happy to say that all the parties were punished. The Darogah and Jemadar were sentenced to fourteen and ten years' imprisonment, respectively, with labor and irons in banishment, and the other three parties to seven years' imprisonment. I am surprised at the occurrence of such an offence, or at any attempt to compel confession under a Magistrate like Mr Yule, so well known for his vigilance and efficiency, but no hazard of detection and punishment will check an unscrupulous Native Officer. In another case, the prisoner who murdered the mother of his mistress, because she forbade his visits to her daughter, suffered death, and the same sentence was passed on another prisoner in a third case. In all, the Magistrate discharged three persons and the Nizamut punished seven. Two others were convicted of homicide, and appear under that head. One case occurred on the 23rd December, and the prisoner had been made over to the Sessions since the close of the year. In four of the homicides, convictions had taken place. In one, the prisoner was acquitted, and three were pending before the Sessions Judge. Two of these, in which women were killed by their husbands, occurred nearly two years ago, and were traced out by the Bograh Darogah. The affrays were of little importance, and in them fifty-three persons were punished by the Magistrate, twenty-four also were sentenced in the assaults with wounding, one case of rape was pending at the Sessions, in the other the parties were discharged. The remaining headings call for no notice.

170th The second class is composed of dacoitee with wounding 2, dacoitee 8, burglary with wounding 2, theft with wounding 1, attempt at dacoitee 1. In one of the dacoitees with wounding, four parties had been made over to the Sessions, but were acquitted. In the other, no trace of the offenders could be obtained. In one of the simple cases two persons were convicted at the Sessions, but released by the Nizamut, and in another, four persons were convicted. Nothing could be proved in the others against the parties arrested. In most indeed there was no clue, and in general, the Police obtain very little assistance from the sufferers themselves in dacoitees. The burglaries and thefts with wounding, were of a very petty nature.

171st. In the third class are burglary 759, thefts 627, cattle-stealing 288, attempt at burglary 84, attempt at theft 14. There is an increase in the burglaries and thefts as compared with the past year, a great portion of this is in one Thannah (Bograh) Mr Yule does not attribute this to any real increase in these offences, but to greater care in ascertaining those which do occur. Sixty-three cases of burglary and ninety-one of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, and sixteen of the former and seven of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries, thirty-two and in the thefts 113 persons had been punished.

172nd. The fourth class is made up of 10 charges of arson, most of which were false. In one, three parties were convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. One case of uttering base coin in the fifth class was disposed of by the Magistrate.

173rd. In the sixth class are perjury 2, neglect of Police and Chowkeedars 62, neglect of Zemindars 17, neglect of Jail Officers 24, bad character 17, false complaint 41, fraud 4, abduction 7, harbouring offenders 1, escape 3, entering house with bad intent 6, corruption 7, refusing to support mother and illegitimate child 3, riot at night 5, contempt of Court 4, trespass 12, absconding from service 14. In the cases of bad character twenty-three persons were punished to eight released.

174th. The Police Officers sent in 424 persons on their own responsibility and twenty-six by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 100 on bail and having two in custody. The total number coming before the Courts and Police was 1,391.

175th. Three convicts had escaped, one of whom had been re-apprehended.

176th. Two hundred and eighty-two Rupees have been paid in rewards to recruits and others for the arrest of offenders and assistance to the Police.

177th. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,603-3-9, the Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 834-2-11, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 830-1-6.

178th. One Darogah and nine Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police.

179th. The Securities of the Officers in charge of money had been revised and reported sufficient.

180th. With the exception of one month, when Mr J. R. Muspratt officiated, Mr. G. U. Yule was in charge of the district. Mr Yule is an active and efficient Officer. Mr. Deputy Magistrate Barry conducted his portion of the duties satisfactorily.

MYMENSING.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	4858	4447
Offences against property committed with violence,	5	4
Offences against property committed without violence, . . .	1633	1339
Malicious offences against property,	170	139
Forgery and offences against the currency,	1	0
Other offences not included in the above,	738	626

181st In the first class are murder 16, homicide 6, child-stealing 1, assault with wounding 31, rape 21, causing abortion 15, petty affray 200, assault and false imprisonment 3,676, resistance of process 30, attempt at petty affray 451. In one of the murders the deceased had discovered the adultery of his wife with the prisoners, who on that determined to murder him. They entered his house at night and did so as he was sleeping by his wife. She awoke and threatened to alarm the villagers, on which they murdered her. Suspicion fell on them, and on the arrest of one, he confessed, implicating the other two. One died pending trial, a second was discharged and the third was sentenced to imprisonment in transportation for life. Another case which came before the Magistrate occurred in 1844, the prisoner confessed to having killed with a "dao," at the instigation of another person, one "Tengra," discovered in bed with that party's niece, and was sentenced by the Nizamut Adawlut to imprisonment for seven years. In a third, where the prisoner, on his wife's refusing to cook his dinner, cut her throat. He was sentenced by the same Court to fourteen years' imprisonment. In a fourth case, one prisoner had an intrigue with a widow, but not giving her sufficient means for her support, she complained to the village Panchayet, and it was decided that both parties should be beaten. The prisoner was seized by his father and was struck several blows, but the deceased managed in the confusion to escape from the house and run away. The paramour enraged at having been brought before the Panchayet, and with the shame of having been beaten before them, ran after her accompanied by three of his relations, and on coming up with her they strangled her, and hanging her body on a tree hard by, reported that she had committed suicide. They were sentenced to imprisonment in transportation for life. In twenty-one cases which came on during the year, the Magistrate discharged seventeen persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted one and convicted eleven. The Nizamut convicted the same number, and five cases with twelve prisoners were pending. In the homicides, the Magistrate discharged seven, the Sessions punished one, and two cases with five prisoners were under trial. In the case of child-stealing three persons were punished at the Sessions. Twenty-five persons were convicted in the assaults with wounding. Only three of the charges of rape were carried through, and in these the Magistrate discharged two and punished one person. In the remaining headings the results exhibited are satisfactory.

182nd. In the second class are river dacoitee with wounding 1, river dacoitee 1, theft with murder 1, affray with homicide 1. In the river dacoitee with wounding, eight persons were convicted at the Sessions, and in the simple offence three were punished. There ought to have been two thefts with murder entered, but one case has been included amongst those of murder and in that the two principals and

two accessories were convicted. In the case entered, the only person in the house was the unfortunate female murdered, and in that, out of three persons committed, one was acquitted at the Sessions and two by the Nizamut. The affray with homicide was about land and arose suddenly, and in this, I am glad to say, the four principals on both sides (Talookdars) were punished on reference to the Superior Court.

183rd The third class is composed of burglary 356, theft 315, cattle-stealing 95, embezzlement 33, forcible entry and detainer 489, attempt at burglary 34, attempt at theft 16, attack and plunder 1, receiving stolen goods 1. One hundred and sixteen cases of burglary and 272 of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, twelve of the former and ten of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries 89, and in the thefts 175 persons had been punished.

184th Fourteen cases of arson, 45 of destroying crops and Indigo, and 80 of maiming and seizing cattle, constitute the fourth class. In the charges of arson one person had been punished by the Magistrate. The fifth class is blank.

185th In the sixth class are perjury 1, abduction of married women 34, absconding from service 320, bribery and corruption 23, disobedience of orders 49, escape of prisoners 6, false complaint 1, fraud and extortion 7, harbouring offenders 1, malversation in office 122, neglect of duty by Chowkeedars 10, non-payment of wages 16, not supporting bastard children 36, bad character 50, obstructing road 50. Only eleven of the charges of bad character were taken up, and in them six persons were punished.

186th The Police Officers sent in 628 persons on their own authority and 134 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 168 on bail. The total number coming before the Police and the Courts was 3,133.

187th Six convicts escaped from Jail, who had all been re-apprehended.

188th Three hundred and five Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year.

189th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,462, the Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 1,088, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 1,044.

190th One Mohurir, one Jemadar and one Burkundauz had been removed from the Police during the year.

191st. The Securities of the Officers in charge of public money have been revised and found sufficient.

192nd. Mr R C Raikes a most active Officer was in charge of the district during the first half of the year. He was assisted by Mr G. E. Lance, who is an efficient Officer and by Mr Melville, who joined on the 23rd June. Mr. Barry has done very well at Serajgunge, and Narindra Krishna has evinced more activity in

his subdivision than before. Mr. C. F. Carnac assumed charge of the district on the 1st November, and has carried on the duties very satisfactorily, and Mr B. H. Cooper assumed charge of the subdivision of Jumalpoore on Narindra Krishna leaving it.

SYLHET.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	496	523
Offences against property committed with violence,	0	1
Offences against property committed without violence,	525	608
Malicious offences against property,	9	13
Forgery and offences against the currency,	2	2
Other offences not included in the above,.....	280	218

193rd In the first class are murder 9, wounding with intent to murder 2, homicide 5, affray with homicide 2, affray 1, assault with wounding 6, assault 472, resistance of process 26 In one case of murder the prisoner who killed his nephew, was sentenced to suffer death It appears that he was displeased with his relative for using his "dao" and spoiling it, and taking the instrument from him killed him with it. In another case the prisoner, who was supposed to be of weak mind at the time of perpetrating the act, was sent to the Dacca Insane Hospital, and was returned at the close of the year,—he was acquitted. In a third case, the deceased had intercourse with the mistress of one of the prisoners, and a quarrel having ensued, they agreed together to punish him, and waylaying him, seized him on the banks of a jheel, bound him hand and foot and threw him in The case was referred to the Nizamut Adawlut, by which Court two prisoners were sentenced to imprisonment for life in transportation, and one was released. In a fourth, the same sentence had been passed since the close of the year The prisoner was a lad of about seventeen or eighteen years of age, and on his return home at night being disappointed in getting some food from his mother as he expected, took up a "dao," sharpened it against a small bamboo, and then going into the room where his mother was, seized her and nearly severed her head from her body In thirteen charges of murder which came before the Magistrate, he discharged eight persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted four, the Nizamut released two and punished three, and four cases with six prisoners were pending The prisoner, in one of the cases entered as wounding with intent to murder, was punished and appears under the head of assault with wounding In the other, no arrests were made. In the homicides punishment ensued in all the cases but one. I am glad to see that in those which were occasioned by administering drugs to procure abortion, punishments ensued, and three persons were also convicted as accessories before the fact to the offence. One of the affrays with homicide originated in a sudden dispute during the mohurram, the Magistrate committed eleven parties, but four only had been convicted. In the affray twenty-five persons had been punished by the Magistrate. In the assaults with wounding nine persons were punished In the other headings the results are satisfactory

194th The second class is composed of 1 river dacoitee The prosecutor with a party of respectable native females was proceeding by day from one village to another, when they were attacked by a party of eight or ten men, and their property plundered No clue was found until the Darogah proceeded to some villages in the neighbourhood and made enquiries regarding some bad characters, of whom he sent in seven He had got the right men, but there was not evidence sufficient to convict more than one, who was found in possession of some of the property

195th. In the third class are burglary 240, theft 279, cattle-stealing 48, plunder 6, attempt at burglary 34, attempt at theft 1. Thirty-one burglaries and eighty-seven thefts were enquired into at the requisition of the parties robbed Sixteen of the former and twenty-six of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate In the burglaries thirty, and in the thefts seventy persons had been punished

196th Thirteen charges of arson constitute the fourth class, in two of which three persons were convicted at the Sessions

197th. Two cases of forgery in the fifth class were pending, and in the sixth are perjury 4, bad character 18, contempt of Court 39, escape from jail 4, escape from custody of Police 1, fraud 48, neglect of duty by Ministerial Officers 12, neglect by Police and Chowkeedars 66, oppression by carrying away crops 96 In the cases of bad character 45 persons had been punished to six discharged

198th The Police Officers sent in 207 persons on their own responsibility and twenty-two by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing twenty-two on bail and having twenty before them The total number coming before the Police and Courts was 2,147

199th Seventy-five Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year

200th The Ferry collections were Rupees 54-11-7 The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 2,066-13, and the expense of Establishment was Rupees 1,450

201st. Three Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police

202nd The Securities of the Police Officers had not been satisfactorily reported

203rd Mr. B H Cooper was in charge until the 9th July, when he was relieved by Mr C F Montresor, who is a very active and efficient Officer Mr. C W Mackillop, the Assistant, is favorably reported on by his superiors.

TIPPERAH.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	1549	2060
Offences against property committed with violence,	6	5
Offences against property committed without violence, .. .	408	297
Malicious offences against property,	10	0
Forgery and offences against the currency,	0	0
Other offences not included in the above,	295	158

204th. In the first class are murder 9, homicide 7, affray 1, assault with wounding 1, rape 1, assault 2,039, abortion 1, attempt to murder by poison 1. In one case, in which there was strong evidence, the two parties made over to the Sessions for the murder, which was reported as a suicide, were acquitted. In a second case the deceased had seduced several of the women of his village, and, on the night of the murder, had gone to sleep with one of them. Some of the husbands and relatives of the women with whom he had intrigued came to the house, dragged him out and murdered him. The case was referred to the Nizamut Adawlut, and by that Court six prisoners were sentenced to periods of imprisonment varying from fourteen to five years. In a third, the prisoner who knowingly gave his mistress poison, with the view, as he said, of procuring abortion, but which caused her death in a few hours, was sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment. The poison had been previously used by him to kill rats, so that he was well aware of its effects. In a fourth, the deceased had an intrigue with the daughter of one of the prisoners, and on the night of his death, he was seized when in company with her by her father and brothers, one of whom held him down by the throat and the others by his arms and legs, and when they found he was dead, they hung up the corpse and reported that he had committed suicide. They were committed for murder, found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced, one to imprisonment for twelve and the rest for six months. I should say a punishment very inadequate to the offence. The fifth was the case entered in the statements for 1847, as one of suspicion of murder by Thuggee. It is noticed in the conclusion of paragraph 209 of my report for that year. In the sixth, the prisoners administered to a woman, who was pregnant by one of them, a mixture of red sulphuret of arsenic, white oxide of arsenic, blue vitriol and vermilion for the purpose, as they said, of producing abortion, but as deadly poison was given to the woman the Magistrate committed for murder, the parties were found guilty of culpable homicide. In the seventh and eighth cases, the prisoners were sentenced to imprisonment for life, and in the ninth, in which the deceased was killed, because he had been in the habit of violating the females of the village, which was his Lakhiraj property, the parties were convicted of culpable homicide. Two of the homicides were cases in which wives were killed by their husbands in a fit of anger, and three were caused by giving drugs to procure abortion. In six of the cases punishment followed the proceedings of the Police. The affray was disposed of by the Magistrate. In the single case of assault with wounding, nine persons were punished. In the attempt to commit murder the two accused were convicted, and in the other headings the results are good.

205th The second class is composed of dacoitee with wounding 2, dacoitee 2, highway robbery 1 In one dacoitee the prisoners were acquitted because the prosecutor's witnesses tried to prove too much The real offenders, no doubt, were arrested, and had the case rested on the Police investigation they would have been convicted. A second was a false complaint arising out of a dispute regarding a woman, whose paramour beat her husband severely A third was committed by dacoits from the Noakhallee district, and no trace of them could be procured. In the fourth, which occurred at the close of the year, seven of the offenders, with a portion of the property, had been arrested. In the highway robberies two parties were convicted

206th In the third class are burglary 161, theft 107, cattle-stealing 21, attempt at burglary 3, attempt at theft 5 Thirty-four cases of burglary and eighty-seven of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties, and sixty-one of the former and eight of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate In the burglaries, seventy-one persons, and in the thefts, sixty-nine were punished Thirty-one of those convicted of burglary were tried at the Sessions, the Magistrate having been very successful in tracing out some gangs of burglars Amongst these was a notorious dacoit and thief, who, it was proved, planned the burglary for which he was convicted, whilst under trial for dacoitee at Noakhallee

207th The fourth and fifth classes are blank, and in the sixth are perjury 4, cases under Regulation VII of 1819, 8, false complaint 10, neglect of duty by Police and Chowkeedars 60, neglect by Zemindars 44, bribery 9, illegal assemblage 2, fraud 5, bad character 14, entering house with bad intent 1, escape from jail 1 In the charges of bad character, fourteen persons were punished and two transferred

208th The Police Officers sent in 290 persons on their own authority and fifteen by orders of the Magistrate, releasing three on bail The total number coming before the Courts and Police was 1,778

209th Eight hundred and sixty-four Rupees have been paid in rewards during the year. This includes 500 Rupees paid with the sanction of the Government to the family of Ram Gobind Roy deceased, late a first grade Darogah

210th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,910, the Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 1,217-12-2, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 1,203-14-10.

211th Two convicts had escaped, who were re-captured.

212th One Darogah and three Burkundauses had been removed from the Police.

213th. The Securities of the Officers in charge of public money have been pronounced sufficient

214th. Mr H D IL Fergusson was in charge of the district during the year. As I have on previous occasions remarked he is a most active and efficient Officer.

Mr C F. Carnac was Assistant with the powers of Joint Magistrate to the 25th July He is an Officer of much promise.

N O A K H A L L E E.

	1847	1848.
Offences against the person,	1822	2141
Offences against property committed with violence,	6	13
Offences against property committed without violence,	216	339
Malicious offences against property,	0	3
Forgery and offences against the currency,	0	1
Other offences not included in the above,	509	705

215th In the first class are murder 6, homicide 4, child-stealing 1, affray 1, assault with wounding 7, rape 1, assault 1,919, false imprisonment 199, abortion 1, resistance of process 2 The first case of murder was by poison A paramour of the deceased's wife gave her some jagree, according to her statement, and told her to give it to her husband to eat with his rice She did so, and shortly afterwards her husband was seized with violent vomiting and most excruciating pains, which terminated in death She was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, but her paramour was acquitted from want of proof In a second, the prisoner who killed his wife, who had deserted him to live with another, by beating her with his fists and elbows, was sentenced to the same period of imprisonment In a third, the prisoner suspected of having murdered a woman with whom he wished to form "Nickah" was acquitted One charge was not proved, and two cases with three prisoners in one, and one in the other, were awaiting trial at the Sessions In the homicides, the Magistrate discharged one, the Sessions Judge convicted four persons, and two cases were pending The case of child-stealing was under trial The affray was disposed of by the Magistrate, and in the assaults with wounding, thirteen persons had been punished The results in the other headings are satisfactory In the riot with homicide noticed in the 221st paragraph of my last report, nine persons had been convicted in the first Sessions of this year

216th. The second class is composed of dacoitee with wounding 6, dacoitee 6, attempt at dacoitee 1. I am sorry to see the increase in this offence, and still more so as the crimes have been committed almost with impunity In the dacoitees with wounding, the Sessions Judge had acquitted sixteen and convicted three persons, and in the dacoitees the Magistrate, out of forty persons charged with the offences, could not procure evidence to warrant commitment in any single instance. In the attempt to commit dacoitee nine parties were under trial It is rather a curious case, and the accused have been transferred to Burrisaul. A man gave information that some parties named by him had returned to their homes wounded, some had died of the wounds on the road, but one had been buried at home. The Joint Magistrate suspecting that they had been out on a dacoitee expedition, sent to have them arrested and the corpse exhumed. Death was found to have been occasioned by a fracture of the skull, and four confessed that a party of about twelve in number,

two of whom are dead, started in a boat towards Dacca, and meeting with a Merchant's boat in which were some seven or eight men, they pulled up to it, and some of them jumped on board, but were immediately repulsed, and then all made off to their homes. The man who was killed was a petty Talooqdar, and it is by the agency of men of this class that nearly all the crime in this district is committed.

217th In the third class are burglary 127, theft 84, cattle-stealing 6, receiving stolen property 2, plundering 113, embezzlement 6, attempt at theft 1. Twenty-four burglaries and sixty-one thefts were enquired into, at the request of the parties robbed, and seven of the former with three of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries only ten, and in the thefts forty persons were punished. Only twenty-five of the charges of plundering were carried through the courts.

218th Three charges of arson constitute the fourth class. The Magistrate in these punished two parties, and in the single case of forgery in the fifth, the accused were acquitted at the Sessions.

219th In the sixth class are perjury 1, false complaint 40, neglect by Chowkeedars 78, neglect by Zemindars and others 92, disobedience of orders 23, fraud 6, bad character 52, illegal assemblage 196, contempt of Court 90, bribery 9, cases under Regulation VII of 1819, 37, concealment of crime 4, misdemeanor 75, escape from road 1, annoying the authorities in Calcutta 1. In the charges of bad-character fifty persons had been punished, but what the last offence of "annoying the authorities in Calcutta" is, or how it came within the cognizance of the Joint Magistrate, I do not know.

220th The Police Officers sent in 457 persons on their own authority, and 265 by orders of the Magistrate, releasing 158 on bail. The total number coming before the Court and Police was 1,990.

221st. Twenty-five Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year.

222nd The Ferry Collections were Rupees 3,501-4-8. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 742-3, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 717-2.

223rd One Mohurir had been dismissed from the Police.

224th. The Security of the Nazir is pronounced sufficient.

225th Mr H Atherton was in charge, with the exception of a very short period during the year. Mr. Atherton is a good Officer. He was assisted by Mr. Longmore at the Station with special powers, and by Mr Tweedie, Deputy Magistrate, with full Powers in Hattea and Dukhin Shahbazpore. Mr Atherton reports very favorably, and deservedly so, of Mr Longmore, and Mr Tweedie has conducted the cases within his jurisdiction much to my satisfaction.

CHITTAGONG.

	1847	1848.
Offences against the person,	447	638
Offences against property committed with violence,	3	5
Offences against property committed without violence,	350	457
Malicious offences against property,	3	9
Forgery and offences against the currency,	5	3
Other offences not included in the above,	264	488

226th In the first class are murder 11, homicide 1, affray with homicide 3, affray 2, assault with wounding 20, child-stealing 1, assault 595, petty affray 3, resistance of process 2 In one case of murder the prisoner, a girl of about sixteen, who murdered her husband, an old Brahmin of 60, by cutting off his head whilst he was asleep with the large two-handed knife used in sacrifices, was sentenced to imprisonment for life In another case where the Magistrate had committed one as a principal and ten others as accessories by concealment, the Sessions Judge convicted one of homicide, three as accessories, acquitting the rest In a third, the Sessions Judge acquitted the prisoner who was charged with the murder of his wife, not deeming the evidence which could be procured sufficient to warrant a conviction In a fourth the prisoner having left his house on business, his wife's uncle came, and was refused admittance by his mother On his return, his wife complained of the treatment her uncle had met with, and on his abusing his mother for her conduct, she replied that he was not only the uncle, but the paramour of his wife, and that she would not connive at their iniquity, and therefore turned him out of the house On this the prisoner seized his mother, and laying hold of the bar which fastened the door, struck her two violent blows with it on each side, fracturing the ribs The old woman fell down and expired in a few minutes He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment In the whole, eleven persons were discharged by the Magistrate, eight acquitted at the Sessions, six convicted there, one by the Nizamut, and two cases, with two prisoners in one were pending, the one with the two prisoners was before the Nizamut Adawlut In the homicides the prisoners had been punished In the affrays with homicide—In this class the offences originated in sudden disputes, leading to blows between the parties, and they might have been entered as homicides In one, for instance, a village punchyut having decided that a party had done wrong and had deserved the blow which he had received, his friends objected to the award, a dispute arose, which became warm, and one of the punchyut was knocked down and struck several blows, which caused his death In this case seven, and in another eight prisoners were convicted The affrays were disposed of by the Magistrate In the assaults with wounding, forty-one persons had been punished, and three accused of child-stealing, were discharged In the other headings the results are satisfactory

227th. There is an increase in the more heinous offences of the second class, which is composed of dacoitee with murder 2, dacoitee with wounding 1, highway robbery 1, affray with homicide 1. In the first dacoitee with murder, the deceased, who resided at the foot of the high hills in Satkanneah Thannah, had pecuniary transactions with the hill people His house, in which his aunt and daughter resided

with him, was attacked by a body of hill-men at night, and whilst he was endeavouring to close the door against them, he received a shot in the leg, from the effects of which he died very shortly. The men plundered the house, and on going away, one of them fired and wounded the old woman. No one was recognized, but the deceased having been said to have declared before his death that the party came from Chunchah Parah, the Police were sent there five or six days' journey into the hills but no clue could be obtained. The other dacoitee was also committed by Mugs, but as they resided in the vicinity some of them were arrested and sent in. The Magistrate committed ten, the Sessions Judge acquitted four, and recommended the other six to be imprisoned for life, but the Nizamut directed the release of five, punishing only one. The dacoitee with wounding, was the act of hill-men, encouraged by the nephew and sister of the person whose house was attacked. In this case all the parties have been convicted and sentenced to various periods of imprisonment. The highway robbery was under trial. The affray with homicide originated in the endeavours of one Chittramonee, a relative of the Rajah of Tipperah but opposed to him, to recover a Ghât on the Fenny, where he levied tolls on one bank and the Rajah on the other, which, during a confinement in the Chittagong Jail, he had made over to one Azim Sukdai, who refused to re-deliver it and joined in league with the Rajah's manager. The Magistrate committed five persons. Out of these, only the principal, Chittramonee, was convicted and he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

228th In the third class are burglary 92, theft 319, cattle-stealing 26, plunder 9, attempt at theft 11. Thirty-five cases of burglary and three hundred and twelve of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, ten of theft by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries 75 and in the thefts 413 persons had been punished. These returns are very creditable to the Officiating Magistrate and his Police.

229th The nine charges of arson entered in the fourth class were all false, and in the fifth are forgery 2, counterfeiting coin 1.

230th In the sixth class are perjury 2, bribery 1, fraud 16, neglect of duty by Chowkeedars 120, neglect by Zemindars and others 38, cases under Regulation VII of 1819, 46, bad character 33, escape from road 2, false complaint 123, disobedience 66, misdemeanor 41. In the charges of bad character thirty-six persons had been punished.

231st The Police Officers sent in 906 persons on their own responsibility and 661 by orders of the Magistrate, releasing 307 on bail. The total number coming before the Police and Courts was 3,324.

232nd Three hundred and seventy-six Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year to Police Officers and others, for good conduct and activity.

233rd The Ferry Collections were Rupees 398, the Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 2,791-8-9, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 2,218-4-9.

234th Three convicts had escaped, two of whom were re-captured

235th Two Darogahs, one Mohurr and seven Burkundauzos had been removed from the Police.

236th The Securities of Officers in charge of public money have been revised and pronounced sufficient.

237th Mr C T Buckland was in charge of the District during the year, and has conducted the duties extremely well Although a strict Officer when necessary, he is considerate towards his Police, and encourages them on all occasions when they perform their duty with assiduity and activity Mr Spankie joined as Assistant in October

D A C C A.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	2737	2659
Offences against property committed with violence, .	6	7
Offences against property committed without violence,	447	555
Malicious offences against property,	0	2
Forgery and offences against the currency, .	0	1
Other offences not included in the above,	547	534

238th In the first class are murder 7, homicide 6, child-stealing 1, assault with wounding 11, rape 1, adultery 3, procuring abortion 21, assault 2135, false imprisonment 309, oppression 70, resistance of process 84, abuse 11 In one case of commitment of murder the prisoner was convicted of culpable homicide and sentenced to imprisonment for seven years. The second was a case of alleged poisoning, which was not established, and the accused party was discharged In two others the prisoners, one of whom killed his brother's wife by a blow with a hatchet, and the other murdered his own child, nearly severing its head from the body, committed the acts whilst labouring under insanity In another, the prisoner, a Burkundauz, who cut down his employer on demanding his pay and receiving abuse from him, was sentenced to suffer death In one, the deceased, a prostitute, who had been drinking with a stranger was discovered next day with her throat cut, no clue was found to the perpetrator of the deed, and one case, in which the prisoner confessed that he had murdered his wife, because he suspected her of infidelity, was pending In the whole the Magistrate discharged four persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted one and convicted three, the Nizamut sentenced one, one prisoner was awaiting his trial, and one was transferred. In the homicides the Magistrate discharged six, the Sessions Judge acquitted five and convicted four, and one case was pending In the assaults with wounding, fifty-four persons had been punished No convictions took place in the charges of rape and adultery, whilst only two of those of procuring abortion, in which the Magistrate discharged three parties, were carried through the Court. In the remaining headings the results are satisfactory.

239th The second class is composed of river dacoitee 1, theft with murder 1, theft by administering drugs 5. In the river dacoitee, which was committed between the districts of Dacca and Tipperah, the prosecutors first gave notice in the latter district, where they resided, and their depositions were forwarded to the Dacca Magistrate for enquiry. This delay was fatal, the parties had plenty of time to conceal the plundered property, and although ten men were sent in on suspicion, they were released. The theft with murder was as follows —three men were seated in a boat waiting for a fare, when they were addressed by a man representing himself to be a servant of the Deputy Magistrate at Manickgunge and wanting a boat to convey some rice for his master. The hire was agreed on, and they set off. After going a short distance the man sent one on shore for food, he returned with “chura,” “goor,” and “khirs i,” which the stranger mixed up and gave to them to eat, excusing himself from partaking of it. They shortly became insensible after eating it, and the stranger robbed them of what little they had about them. The following day two were found insensible, and the third dead by them. A man was arrested on suspicion of being the offender, and recognized by the survivors, but he was acquitted at the Sessions. In the thefts by drugging, five persons had been discharged by the Magistrate and three convicted at the Sessions.

240th In the third class are burglary 64, theft 125, cattle-stealing 8, absconding with property 5, plundering 353. Forty-five cases of burglary and 112 of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, thirteen burglaries and the same number of thefts by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries seven, and in the thefts 103 persons were punished. In the charges of plundering 172 convictions occurred.

241st Two charges of arson in which the accused were discharged, are in the fourth class, and in the fifth is one case of forgery.

242nd In the sixth are perjury 1, absconding from service 9, abuse of power 27, bribery 8, concealing crime 3, contempt of Court 122, enticing away married women for the purposes of prostitution 18, entering house with bad intent 4, escape from custody 4, fraud 82, neglect by chowkeedars 175, not giving maintenance 10, bad character 19. Under this last head forty-five persons had been punished.

243rd The Police sent in 174 persons on their own responsibility and 1,237 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 49 on bail. The total number coming before the Police and Magistrate was 3,231.

244th Seventy-five Rupees had been paid for the capture of two convicts during the year.

245th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 4,849-1-3. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 10,122-7-6, and the cost of Establishment Rupees 8,338-10-3.

246th Six convicts had broken Jail, five had been re-captured.

247th One Mohurr and two Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police.

248th The Securities of Officers in charge of public money had been revised and pronounced sufficient.

249th. Mr R. Abercrombie was in charge of the district during the year. He is an efficient Officer, taking an interest in his duties. Mr R J Richardson exercised the powers of Joint Magistrate to the 29th March, and Mr A Abercrombie joined as Assistant on that date. Mr J G French was Deputy Magistrate at Moonsheegunge with special powers. He has much improved in his mode of transacting his duties, and, after inspecting several of his proceedings sent to me by the Magistrate, I can now safely recommend his being vested with full powers in his subdivision.

FURREEDPORE.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	358	3,204
Offences against property committed with violence,	10	3
Offences against property committed without violence,	248	644
Malicious offences against property,	10	70
Forgery and offences against the currency,	0	5
Other offences not included in the above,	311	630

250th In the first class are murder 22, homicide 1, riot with homicide 1, affray 3, assault with wounding 32, rape 16, assault 3,099, resistance of process 26, abortion 2, attempt to sell a female child 1, attempt at assault 1. Two of the cases of murder were of poisoning, in one of which the prisoner administered poison to her husband on account of his beating her for her infidelity. She confessed to the crime in the mofussil and before the Deputy Magistrate, but on reference to the Nizamut was acquitted. In the other the prisoner, who at an entertainment knowingly prepared and gave a mess containing poison to the deceased, who was his intimate friend, committed suicide in jail. He alleged that he had administered the poison at the request of a third party, and that he was selected because from his friendship with the deceased he would be less liable to be suspected, and had the best opportunities of giving it. One of the cases occurred in 1846, and was then concealed. Mr Lantour directed further enquiries, but after such a lapse of time sufficient proof could not be come at. Had the case been taken up at first, I think the parties would have been convicted. In another case the Joint Magistrate committed ten persons on a charge of murdering a stranger, name unknown, and of being accessories after the fact by concealing the corpse. They were all acquitted at the Sessions. In many of the charges there was no proof of the offence, and some were got up. I find that out of thirty-seven accused parties in Jail and twenty-six on bail, the Magistrate discharged thirty-four, the Sessions Judge acquitted fourteen, and the Nizamut one. Five cases were pending with seven prisoners in Jail, one on bail, one died and one escaped, and four were transferred to the headings of assault and concealing crime. In the homicide one person was acquitted and one convicted at the Sessions. Riot with homicide—There had been a bad feeling between two neighbours for some time, in con-

sequence of one of them having obtained a decree in his favor under Act IV. of 1840, the losing party, one Doorganarain, collected some men and proceeded to the house of the other, and in spite of remonstrances attacked his family, wounding three, one of whom subsequently died. Doorganarain was sentenced to four years and the others to shorter periods of imprisonment. The affrays were disposed of by the Magistrate, and in them forty-three persons had been punished, fifty-seven were also convicted in the assaults with wounding. No convictions took place in the charges of rape. The number of plaints of assault entered is surprising as compared with the returns of previous years, and the number of those carried on 725, is more than double the number entered as having been preferred during the year 1847.

251st The second class is composed of river dacoitee 2, highway robbery 1. One of the river dacoitees was committed on the 20th December 1847, and the other on the 9th February 1848. They both took place in the same Thanna, Seebchur, and of course it was natural to suppose that they were the acts of the same gang. In the first a clue could not be obtained, and in the second the Police were quite at fault, but at last the Darogah who persevered in his endeavours to discover the offenders, got some information which led to the arrest of one Deep Chand Sen, with property and some others, residents of Thanna Lohargurra in the district of Jessore, and after enquiries, seven were made over to the Sessions, where six were convicted of the dacoitee and one of receiving the plundered property. These men must have followed the boat for some distance, and watched the opportunity of committing the robbery. In the highway robbery no arrests had been made.

252nd In the third class are burglary 204, theft 96, cattle stealing 21, plundering property 314, attempt at burglary 9. Fifty-seven cases of burglary and sixty-one of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, eight of the first and twenty of the last by order of the Magistrate. In the burglaries twenty-three and in the thefts eighty-four persons were punished. One hundred and five of the charges of plundering property were persevered with, and in these 140 persons were punished.

253rd Nine charges of arson, 50 of destroying crops and 11 of obstructing road, compose the fourth class. No one was punished in the cases of arson, and only five of those of destroying crops were carried through the Courts.

254th In the fifth class are 5 charges of forgery, and in the sixth are perjury 3, assembling armed men 266, neglect by Police and Chowkeedars 87, false complaint 39, fraud 25, bad character 56, absconding from service 13, abuse of power 28, disobedience of orders 51, bribery 12, escape from Jail 4, neglect of Zemindars 4, concealing crime 20, appropriating unclaimed property 1, harbouring absconded defendants 1, suits under Regulation VII of 1819, 10, offence against public peace 2, abducting a defendant on bail 1, extorting confession 1. In the charges of bad character ninety-two persons were punished to sixty-five discharged.

255th The Police Officers sent in 493 persons on their own authority and 1,259 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 148 on bail. The total number coming before the Courts and Police was 3,708.

256th. Seven convicts had escaped from Jail, five of whom had been re-apprehended

257th One hundred and twenty-eight Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year

258th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,449-3-8 The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 956, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 946-8

259th Three Darogahs, two Mohurirs and seven Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police during the year

260th The Securities of the Officers in charge of money have been pronounced sufficient.

261st Mr Edward Lantour was in charge of the district from the 19th January to 28th December This officer, by his vigorous control of the Police and his firm administration of justice, has done a great deal towards the checking of the acts of violence and oppression which used to prevail All parties and sects had perfect confidence in him, and his departure from the zillah was viewed with regret by the residents in it

BACKERGUNGEE.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	478	486
Offences against property committed with violence,	13	6
Offences against property committed without violence,	84	116
Malicious offences against property,	1	2
Forgery and offences against the currency,	2	0
Other offences not included in the above,	185	187

262nd In the first class are murder 13, wounding with intent to murder 1, homicide 3, assault with wounding 24, rape 2, assault 411, attack 6, resistance of process 10, simple affray 7, attempt at simple affray 9 Five of the cases of murder had their origin in intrigue. In one of them the husband, who murdered his wife suspecting her of infidelity, was sentenced to imprisonment for life In a second, where a female slew the wife of her paramour, and had his aid in concealing the circumstances of the case, she was sentenced to seven and an accomplice to two years' imprisonment. The husband and another were acquitted. In a third, the deceased detecting his wife in a criminal intercourse with a Chowkeedar, beat them both. The Chowkeedar in revenge for this, assisted by two others, finding the deceased asleep, throttled him They were sentenced by the Sessions Judge, but released by the Nizamut Adawlut. In the fourth, where the deceased was poisoned by his wife and others, that she might with greater facility carry on her intrigues with them, the prisoners were also convicted by the Judge, and acquitted by the

Superior Court. The fifth case, in which a man was murdered by a former paramour of his mistress, was pending. In one of the other cases the prisoner who killed his father-in-law was pronounced insane, and in a second, a husband who killed his wife, because she had not cooked his food as suited his taste, was sentenced to transportation beyond sea for life. In the whole the Magistrate discharged nine persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted four and the Court of Nizamut Adawlut four, six were convicted at the Sessions, eleven by the Superior Court and two cases with five prisoners were pending. In the case of wounding with intent to murder the prisoner was sentenced by the Sessions Judge to fourteen years' imprisonment. That was subsequently modified by the Nizamut to imprisonment for half that period. The charges of homicide were all dismissed by the Magistrate. In one, the Surgeon declared the death to have been caused by disease. In the second, the deceased, an old woman of 80, died from a fall, and in the third, an alleged death of a school-boy from the effects of a box in the ear administered by his master, the accused were discharged on their own recognizances to appear when called on. In the assaults with wounding, forty-four persons had been punished. No convictions ensued in the charges of rape, and in the other headings the results are satisfactory.

263rd. The second class is composed of dacoitee with wounding 1, river dacoitee with wounding 1, affray with homicide 3, affray with serious breach of the peace 1. In the dacoitee, which was planned by two runaway convicts from the Furreedpore Jail, these two were sentenced to fourteen years and three others, the receivers of the property, to shorter periods of imprisonment. In the river dacoitee the prisoners were, with the exception of three, convicted. It appeared that some of the parties were also concerned in a river dacoitee which occurred in September 1847, and the Magistrate succeeded in obtaining convictions against them and others for that offence. In all the affrays with homicide, convictions have followed upon the proceedings of the Police and Magistrate, and out of thirty-eight committed for these offences, thirty-five have been convicted, which is very creditable to the Magistrate and the Police. The Magistrate disposed of the affray himself and punished the parties.

264th. In the third class are burglary 44, theft 61, cattle-stealing 8, embezzlement 1, attempt at burglary 2. Twenty-nine cases of burglary and thirty-seven of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed. Thirteen of the former and twenty-two of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries forty-four and in the thefts eighty-four persons had been punished. Although no separate cases of receiving stolen property appear, yet fifteen persons have been punished for that in the offences against property.

265th. There are two cases of arson in the fourth class. In one, the case broke down at the Sessions, and in the other, which was caused by a quarrel between certain landed proprietors regarding the establishment of a new market, out of eighteen prisoners committed, seventeen were convicted at the Sessions.

266th. The fifth class is blank, and in the sixth are perjury 1, false complaint 25, neglect of ministerial officers 23, neglect by Police 116, neglect by Chowkeedars 3,

abduction 5, concealing crime 3, contumacy 8, bribery 3. No cases of bad character appear, but I observe twelve punished under that head, who were arrested as concerned in burglaries and thefts.

267th The Police sent in 544 persons on their own responsibility and 216 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 66 on bail The total number coming before the Police and the Courts was 1,750

268th One convict had broken Jail, and was yet at large

269th. Six hundred Rupees, inclusive of a pair of Shawls, valued at 500 Rupees presented to 1st Grade Darogah Sheebnath Ghose, had been paid during the year

270th. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 467-4½. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 907, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 888

271st. One Darogah and four Burkundauzes have been dismissed from the Police during the year

272nd The Securities of Officers in charge of public money had been revised and pronounced sufficient.

273rd Mr M. Shawe was in charge of the district, with the exception of two months, when Mr Paxton acted for him He is an energetic and efficient Officer, managing his Police well, and, it will be observed, has been successful in procuring convictions in the cases which came before him. He was assisted by Mr Paxton, of whom he reports favorably, and from what I saw of that Gentleman's work, whilst he was acting as Magistrate, I think deservedly so Baboo Jugesh Chunder Ghose, was Deputy Magistrate at the Station with special powers He conducts his trials well, and would make an excellent Judicial Officer, but from want of energy of character I should not like to see him in charge of a subdivision about Dacca, Furreedpore or Backergunge

JESSORE.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	811	2305
Offences against property committed with violence, ..	38	29
Offences against property committed without violence, .	416	879
Malicious offences against property,	4	18
Forgery and offences against the currency,	0	6
Other offences not included in the above,	808	836

274th In the first class are entered murder 27, wounding with intent to murder 1, homicide 9, affray 4, assault with wounding 15, rape 4, assault 2,155, causing the death of a man by setting a snare on the road 1, suspicious death 1, accidental death 1, oppression 3, resistance of process 84. It must not be supposed so large a

number of murders as twenty-seven really did occur. The entry is of every charge of that nature which was made to the Police, very many of them totally unsupported by proof. Out of the twenty-seven, only seventeen were sent up by the Police to the Magistrate, and in these, out of forty persons said to be concerned, twenty-four were at large on bail. One case ought to have been entered under No. 20, being the murder of a girl seven years old for the sake of her ornaments. The prisoner was seen by four persons to take the child away with him, and on her not returning, search was made for her, and she was discovered in the jungle in a dying state, she expired on reaching her father's house. The prisoner was pursued, and on his apprehension confessed. He was sentenced to suffer death. In another case, the deceased, a woman by name Anundo Peshagur, was sitting with the two prisoners and four others, and after a short time she rose up and went towards a liquor shop, both the prisoners immediately followed. Very shortly after the other four persons heard the screams of a woman proceed from the liquor shop. They ran up, and saw the two prisoners come out by the same door and run away in different directions, and on entering the house found Anundo with her throat cut, still living. She was unable to speak when the prisoners were arrested, but by signs pointed them out as the parties who had cut her throat, and also pointed out the instrument with which it was done. She died in Hospital, and the prisoners were sentenced to imprisonment in transportation beyond sea for life. In all the cases the Magistrate discharged twenty-six persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted one and convicted one, the Nizamut convicted five, and four cases with seven prisoners in Jail were under trial. In the wounding with intent to murder, the prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment for fourteen years, and in the homicides the Magistrate discharged twelve persons, and four were convicted at the Sessions. The Magistrate disposed of the affrays. In the assaults with wounding, twenty-two persons had been punished. No convictions took place in the charges of rape, and only 622 of the assaults were carried through the Courts. The remaining headings require no notice.

275th. The second class is composed of dacoitee with wounding 1, dacoitee 22, highway robbery 1, burglary with wounding 1, affray with homicide 2, attempt at dacoitee 2. In the dacoitee with wounding, fifteen offenders, being all of those concerned, were convicted at the Sessions. Two of the charges of dacoitee, on investigation, proved false, and in the rest, the Magistrate discharged 120 persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted thirty-seven and convicted ninety-four. This is a better return in this class of offences than has been for some time made from this district. The crime has not been confined to a few Thannahs, but, with the exception of the Tala and Kutwallah Thannahs, spread nearly equally amongst the other Police Jurisdictions. The lattyals and men of bad character are always ready to undertake the perpetration of these offences, even near to their own houses. The highway robbery was pending, and the parties charged with the burglary with wounding were released. In one of the cases of affray with homicide, which was premeditated, although not many persons were concerned, fifteen persons including the principals were convicted. In the other, in which one Anun Biswas with others drove off a few persons cultivating Indigo lands, wounding one seriously, whom they carried off, and evidence was adduced to show that he had died the same day, the Magistrate committed thirty-four persons, thirty-one of whom were convicted by the

Sessions Judge, but they were all subsequently released by the orders of the Nizamut Adawlut, that Court not being satisfied with the evidence. In the attempts at dacoitee, eight persons had been arrested and discharged.

276th In the third class are burglary 156, theft 150, cattle-stealing 55, receiving stolen property 9, plunder 205, embezzlement 1, attempt at burglary 285, attempt at theft 18. One hundred and ten cases of burglary and 114 of theft, were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, nineteen of the former and sixteen of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries seventy-two, and in the thefts ninety persons had been punished. One hundred and one cases of plunder were carried through the Courts, in which ninety-eight persons were convicted.

277th Seventeen charges of arson and one of slaughtering another's cattle are in the fourth class. No convictions took place in any of them.

278th Six cases of forgery, which came from the Civil Court, are in the fifth class, and in the sixth are perjury 3, neglect by zemundars 10, neglect by chowkeedars 83, neglect by Police 143, giving and receiving unauthorized copy 1, refusal to pay chowkeedars 4, false complaint 34, contempt of Court 96, illegal assemblage 82, escape from jail 8, escape from guard 1, breach of jail discipline 12, trespass 7, committing nuisance 18, claims for arrears of wages 12, absconding from service 2, forfeiture of recognizance 6, levying illegal tolls 9, conspiracy 1, appropriating unclaimed property 3, concealment of crime 15, fraud 37, recusant witnesses 1, notorious bad character 244, harbouring bad character 1. In the cases of bad character 274 persons had been punished.

279th The Police Officers sent in 666 persons on their authority and 566 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 657 on bail. The total number coming before the Police and the Courts was 4,118.

280th Seven prisoners had escaped from Jail, five of whom were re-captured.

281st. Three hundred and twelve Rupees had been paid in rewards for the arrest of Dacoits and Thieves.

282nd The Ferry Collections were Rupees 1,081-3. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 1,462-11-6, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 1,377-0-9.

283rd. Two Darogahs, one Mohurer and four Burkundauzes have been removed from the Police. One Darogah for incapacity and the other for collusion.

284th The Securities of the Officers in charge of public money had been revised and pronounced sufficient.

285th Mr F. L. Beaufort was in general charge of the district, and has conducted the duties very creditably to himself. Mr. Muspratt succeeded Mr. Mon-

tresor, in the charge of the Khoolna Subdivision. He has shown judgment and ability, but has not that interest in his duties and the energy which characterized his predecessor. Mr. Deputy Magistrate Cockburn was in charge of the Sub-Division of Magoorah, and has given satisfaction, his Police and Judicial proceedings having shown a great improvement over those of the past year. Baboo Gopal Lall Mitter, who joined as Deputy Magistrate on the 9th June, is favorably reported on by Mr. Beaufort.

N U D D E E A.

	1847.	1848
Offences against the persons,	300	165
Offences against property committed with violence, . . .	54	101
Offences against property committed without violence,	1046	1083
Malicious offences against property,	4	6
Forgery and offences against the currency,	5	2
Other offences not included in the above,	570	588

286th In the first class are murder 10, wounding with intent to murder 1, homicide 4, riot with homicide 1, affray 10, assault with wounding 21, causing abortion 1, assault 117. The number of offences in this class is exceedingly small, and this is owing to those cases only of assault being entered which were carried through the Court. This number is very insignificant and it bears an appearance, as if from delay or other cause, the people were not desirous of having recourse to the Courts in such cases. In the murders, the Magistrate discharged thirteen persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted two, and three cases with nine persons in jail and four on bail were pending. The person charged with wounding with intent to kill was discharged, and in the homicides, two persons had been convicted, and one case with four prisoners was pending. The riot with murder was an attack by the ryots of Radanuggur and the neighbouring villages, on the servants of the Factory of Joradoho, as they were reaping their *kullee* in the fields belonging to their employer, when one Kulumdeo was killed. This attack was supposed to have been instigated by the Agents of Pearce and Brijoo Soondoree Dossees, Zemindars of Begumabad, between whom and the owners of the Factory there was some difference, but no dispute regarding these lands. The Magistrate committed six parties, but they were all released at the Sessions. In the affrays, thirty-one persons had been punished and in the assaults with wounding, forty-two. In this district it is no uncommon practice with Zemindars to instigate charges of murder against those whom they dislike or with whom they have a difference, for instance, Motee Lall Ghose brought a charge in the Santipore Subdivision against Rajchunder Roy, Baboo Nobin Ghose and others of that place, of having murdered or caused the murder of his brother Mudhoo Soodhun Ghose. I have no doubt as to the man having been made away with whilst engaged in an intrigue and advantage was taken of this by Oomess Chunder Roy *alias* Motee Baboo, the Zemindar of that place, who reported the murder eleven days after its occurrence, to procure the charge being brought against his cousin and others, with whom he had long been at enmity.

287th. If the returns in the first class are not satisfactory those in the second are still more discreditable to the Executive Police. The number of offences in this class has nearly doubled since the close of the past year, and it at present consists of dacoitee with torture 7, dacoitee with wounding 10, dacoitee 43, river dacoitee with wounding 1, river dacoitee 6, highway robbery with wounding 2, highway robbery 7, burglary with wounding 9, attempt at dacoitee 16. One hundred and seventy-four persons are entered as engaged in dacoitees with torture, in six cases fifty-two persons were sent in, thirty-seven discharged by the Magistrate, eleven acquitted to four convicted at the Sessions. One hundred and fifty-eight are entered as engaged in the dacoitees with wounding, in nine cases seventy-three persons were sent in, twenty-one were discharged by the Magistrate, six acquitted and fourteen convicted at the Sessions, and six cases with thirty-two prisoners were pending. In the simple dacoitees 178 persons are entered as engaged, in thirty-eight of these 131 persons were sent in, sixty-five discharged by the Magistrate, twenty-one acquitted, and eighteen convicted at the Sessions, and seven cases with twenty-seven prisoners left pending. One river dacoitee with six prisoners was under trial. In the rest no convictions had ensued. One person had been punished by the Magistrate in the burglaries with wounding, but neither in the rest of the cases nor in the highway robberies were any persons convicted. Although in the commitments in the dacoitees the returns are better than those of the past year, which showed two-thirds of those made over to the Sessions acquitted there, yet the great increase in crime and the very great want of success on the part of the Police in tracing out the offenders evince considerable disorganization and want of system, and it will require much care and attention on the part of the present Officiating Magistrate to bring the Police into order and a proper exercise of their duties.

288th. In the third class are burglary 636, theft 131, cattle-stealing 109, receiving stolen property 1, embezzlement 2, attempt at burglary 170, attempt at theft 34. Twenty-six burglaries and 138 thefts were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, and thirteen of the first and twelve of the last by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries twenty-one and in the thefts forty-eight persons had been punished.

289th. In the 6 charges of arson forming the fourth class no convictions took place. Two cases of forgery are in the fifth class one of which was pending.

290th. In the sixth are perjury 3, bad character 42, bribery 15, disobedience of orders 83, escape from custody 3, false complaint 14, misdemeanour 195, neglect of duty by Police and Chowkeedars 226, neglect by Zemindars 5. In the cases of bad character 146 persons had been punished.

291st. The Police Officers sent in 501 persons on their own responsibility and 653 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 174 on bail and having twenty-four before them at the close of the year. The total number coming before the Police and the Courts was 2,233

292nd One hundred and ten Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year.

293rd. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 9,737-6-9½. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 7,745-13-1, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 4,660-0-6

294th. One convict had escaped who had been re-captured.

295th Two Darogahs had been dismissed for misconduct and neglect of duty.

296th The Securities of Public Officers had been revised and reported sufficient.

297th. Mr G P Leycester had charge of the district during the year and I must say that the results are not creditable to his control over, and management of the Police. He was assisted by Mr Hope with special powers and Mr W C Lockner as Assistant Mr Hope is a very hard working Officer Mr W T. Law had charge of the Subdivision of Santipore during the early part of the year and subsequent to that Mr Browne Wood was placed there Of Mr Law's character I have on former occasions expressed my opinion Mr Wood has given satisfaction in the performance of his duties. Mr Hewett had charge of the Thannah of Augurdeep within his Subdivision of Cutwa.

MOORSHEE D A B A D.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	1681	1531
Offences against property committed with violence, ..	25	22
Offences against property committed without violence, ..	716	764
Malicious offences against property,	5	7
Forgery and offences against the currency,	5	4
Other offences not included in the above,	654	854

298th In the first class are murder 4, homicide 8, child-stealing 1, assault with wounding 18, rape 2, assault 761, oppression 679, causing abortion 4, abuse 3, suicide 4, resistance of process 47 In one case of murder the prisoner who killed his wife, was sentenced to suffer death In two others, the parties accused were released at the Sessions for want of sufficient proof In one of them, the Mofussil proceedings were very carelessly conducted by the Darogah, Bolaram Roy, and he was in consequence suspended for six months The fourth case was pending In that a woman, named Eusum Bewa, left her house to go to that of three of the defendants, whom the Magistrate has released, next morning her body was found near a tank with all her ornaments missing, suspicion attached to the persons to whose house she was going and to another person, their houses were searched and in that of the latter a silver necklace belonging to the deceased was found, he stated that he had

seen the other parties murdering the woman and they gave him the necklace to hold his tongue. This might have been true, but as there was nothing against them but this statement, they were necessarily dismissed and he was made over to the Sessions. In two of the charges of homicide, the deaths arose from natural causes, and in the others the Magistrate discharged eleven, one was acquitted and three convicted at the Sessions, and in one case two parties escaped from the Thannah. In the assaults with wounding, twenty-four persons had been punished. In one of the charges of rape, four persons were made over to the Sessions, but acquitted there. The other headings require no notice.

299th. In the second class are dacoitee with wounding 1, dacoitee 15, highway robbery with murder 3, highway robbery 1, affray with homicide 1, affray 1. In the dacoitee with wounding no parties had been sent in, five persons were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the offence, but were released on bail. In the fifteen cases of simple dacoitee, sixty-one persons were discharged by the Magistrate, eleven acquitted at the Sessions, twenty-three convicted there, and one case with eleven prisoners was pending. In the highway robberies with murder I regret to say that no convictions took place. One was the murder of a Dâk Hurkaru, and another was a very curious case. The prosecutor with the deceased, a distant connexion of his, had gone to a village to procure change for some fifty goldmohurs, which the prosecutor asserts that he had found some months before lying in a bag or purse on the road. No one had seen these goldmohurs but there was a report current in the neighbourhood that he had found them. They did not succeed in procuring change and the prosecutor and the deceased returned home. On the road there, the neighbouring villagers were alarmed by cries, and running up saw the deceased lying dead in a Nullah with four or five deep wounds on his chest and head and the prosecutor standing by. The prosecutor stated that five persons, whom he named, had seen him carrying the bag of gold to the merchant when he wanted to procure change, and on his staying behind to ease himself he saw those five rush on his relative when in the water, kill him and carry off the bag. There was nothing against these men but the prosecutor's statement. They had not been seen in the village when the prosecutor went to procure change, and the villagers who came up at the prosecutor's cries did not see them, and it is curious that the prosecutor did not shew the goldmohurs to the Mohajun from whom he requested change. No persons had been convicted in the case of highway robbery. I regret to observe that the proceedings in the case of affray with homicide reflect no credit on the Officers engaged in conducting them. The Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Nobin Chunder Mookerjee was sent to the spot to conduct the case by Mr Halkett, but neither that Gentleman nor Mr Dalrymple subsequently exercised any proper supervision over his proceedings and he completely marred the case, so that, out of an attacking party of nearly 500 men, only four persons have been punished. Had the case been properly conducted, evidence could have been adduced against a number of the servants of the Factory of Ekhenegunge, and presumptive evidence against Mr Deverell, the owner of the Factory. The dispute as usual was about lands, which the Factory people wished to sow with Indigo and on being resisted, came in a body of 4 to 500, attacked the houses of the ryots, carried off their cattle and wounded seven persons, of whom one died. The affray was disposed of by the Magistrate.

300th. In the third class are burglary 319, theft 336, cattle-stealing 52, receiving stolen property 3, embezzlement 5, attempt at burglary 43, attempt at theft 16. Sixty-five cases of burglary and 203 of theft were investigated at the request of the parties robbed. Ten of burglary and thirty-one of theft by orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries forty-two and in the thefts 130 persons had been punished, two were also punished for receiving stolen property.

301st. Seven charges of arson compose the fourth class, in which no convictions occurred, and in the fifth are two cases of forgery and two of counterfeiting coin

302nd In the sixth are perjury 3, bad character 102, neglect of duty by Police 78, neglect of duty by Chowkeedars 318, neglect by Zemindars and others 197, false complaint 43, fraud 5, disobedience of orders 42, illegal assemblage 8, escape from custody 10, concealing offences 3, abduction 7, drunkenness 2, absconding from service 11, gambling 5, contempt of court 26, refusing to afford maintenance 2, refusing to pay wages 1, attempt to escape from jail 1. In the charges of bad character sixty-six persons had been punished

303rd The Police sent in 528 persons on their own authority, and 495 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 516 on bail, and having 5 before them. The total number coming before the Police and the Courts was 3,328

304th Two hundred and ten Rupees have been paid in rewards during the year. One hundred of this was for the re-capture of escaped prisoners

305th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 3,574-3. The Chowkeedarree Assessment was Rupees 30,553-13-8, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 25,677-6-8.

306th Five convicts had escaped from jail, who were all re-captured

307th One Mohurrir and two Jemadars had been removed from the Police

308th The Securities of the Officers in charge of public funds have been enquired into and reported sufficient.

309th Mr Halkett was in charge of the District from the 1st January to the 10th July, when he gave over charge to Mr F A E. Dalrymple, who was relieved by Mr H Pratt on the 10th October, and Mr. A Money assumed charge of the Magistracy on the 21st November

310th. Mr C Limond was Assistant with special powers from 1st January to 31st March, and from the 3rd May to 10th October. Mr. H. Pratt was Assistant with special powers from the 29th May to the end of the year. I consider Mr. H Pratt to be an Officer of very great promise. He is most assiduous and attentive in the transaction of his duties

B E E R B H O O M.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	464	441
Offences against property committed with violence,	16	24
Offences against property committed without violence, ...	715	753
Malicious offences against property,	31	33
Forgery and offences against the currency,	4	0
Other offences not included in the above,	446	918

311th In the first class are murder 9, wounding with intent to murder 2, homicide 2, affray 5, assault with wounding 6, assault 362, oppression 38, procuring abortion 2, attempt to commit affray 12, attempt to commit suicide 3. One of the cases of murder occurred in March 1847, and had been concealed at the time. It was disclosed in consequence of a dispute regarding the division of the Hush money. In it, one person was sentenced to imprisonment for life and six others to periods of imprisonment varying from seven to two years for privy to the crime. Another murder was brought to light which took place in the town of Kandee in May 1846. Three parties have been committed for the offence, which was the murder of a prostitute by her paramour, but, I fear, from the length of time which has passed, the principal will escape, although those who were privy to the concealment of it may be punished. In a third case, which was attempted to be concealed and the corpse made away with, the Deputy Magistrate, Mr Hewett, succeeded in convicting the principal as well as two others who endeavoured to conceal the offence and in a fourth case also, which was concealed for some months and a false report as to the deceased having been accidentally drowned spread abroad, the parties were brought to justice. In all the cases nine persons were convicted and three acquitted at the Sessions, nine were punished on reference to the Nizamut, and one case with three prisoners was pending at the Sessions. Only one person was arrested in the charges of wounding with intent to murder and he escaped before conviction. In the homicides, three parties were convicted and fourteen acquitted at the Sessions. The affrays were petty and disposed of by the Magistrate. In the assaults with wounding, twenty-one persons were punished and one discharged. The other headings do not require any particular notice and the results in them are fair.

312th There is a considerable encrease apparent in the second class of offences. I say apparent, because it is extremely difficult to ascertain whether the encrease is real, or if it is caused by the sufferers giving more ready information to the Police. It is composed of dacoitee with wounding 1, dacoitee 13, river dacoitee 3, highway robbery with wounding 1, highway robbery 2, theft with murder 1, theft with murder of children for their ornaments 3. In the dacoitee with wounding no arrests were made. Six of the simple dacoitees were made over to the Sessions, and in them four persons were acquitted and eleven punished. In one case of river dacoitee six prisoners were awaiting their trial at the Sessions. In the others the Police were not successful in procuring evidence. The highway robbery with wounding was also pending at the Sessions, and in the simple cases the Magistrate discharged two and the Sessions Judge convicted two. Five persons were convicted in the theft with murder, of receiving property knowing it to have been obtained by murder and of

privity to the crime, and in two of the murders of children for their ornaments, four persons had been convicted, one of whom was sentenced to imprisonment for life, and a second to imprisonment for fourteen years. Two persons were awaiting their trial in the third case.

313th In the third class are burglary 204, theft 413, cattle-stealing 86, receiving stolen property 6, plundering property 21, snatching ornaments 2, embezzlement 1, attempt at burglary 2, attempt at theft 16. Three hundred and eighty-nine cases of theft and 109 of burglary were investigated at the request of the parties robbed. Thirty-four thefts and thirty-six burglaries were taken up by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries forty-three and in the thefts 176 persons had been punished. Twelve persons were convicted in the cases of receiving stolen property.

314th The fourth class is composed of thirty-three cases of wilful destruction of property, in which seventeen persons were punished.

315th The fifth class is blank, and in the sixth are perjury 3, bad character 34, disobedience of orders 160, contempt of Court 101, neglect of Chowkeedars 424, neglect of Police 29, neglect of Zemindars 17, neglect of Omlah 22, disputes respecting claims of property in charges of theft 59, suits under Regulation VII. of 1819 19, false complaint 21, fraud 12, conspiracy 3, bribery 1, not accounting for disappearance of persons 5, escape from custody 8, concealing murder 1, illegal assemblage 1. In the charges of bad character sixty-eight were released to twenty-three punished. The proportion is too large of those unnecessarily brought up in such cases.

316th The Police sent in 615 persons on their own responsibility and 1,977 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 502 on bail, and having fifteen before them. The total number coming before the Police and Courts was 4,467.

317th Three hundred and twenty Rupees were paid in rewards during the year.

318th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 83. The Chowkeedarrec Assessment was Rupees 664-8, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 624.

319th Eight convicts had escaped, only two of whom were re-captured.

320th One Darogah had been removed for continued absence without leave.

321st. The securities of the Officers in charge of public money had been revised and found sufficient.

322nd Although in the dacoitees the Police have not been very successful, yet in the murders, highway robberies, and thefts with murder, I have observed with satisfaction their exertions and perseverance. Mr. E. Woodcock, the Magistrate, is indefatigable in his labours and by constantly moving about obtains a knowledge of

the crimes which occur, and of the character of the people in the interior of the district Mr. Hewett gives every satisfaction on the conduct of the Thannah (Keogong) attached to his sub-division, and Mr Pepper, the Assistant, is a young Officer of considerable ability, taking interest in the discharge of his duties, and he might, I think, with advantage, be vested with the powers of Joint Magistrate

BANCOORAH.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	526	603
Offences against property committed with violence	18	31
Offences against property committed without violence, . .	1049	1354
Malicious offences against property, . .	3	14
Forgery and offences against the currency,	2	3
Other offences not included in the above,	840	806

323rd In the first class are murder 10, wounding with intent to murder 3, homicide 3, affray 1, assault with wounding 6, rape 3, assault 311, oppression 218, petty affray 5, attempt to commit murder 1, attempt at petty affray 42. An increase will be observed in the offences of murder, wounding with intent to murder, homicide, and rape, but not more, I think, than might have been expected from the extent of jurisdiction and population added to this district, and the working of the subordinate courts amongst the Police and people within those limits as well as the greater leisure given to all to attend to the Police, to which must be added the violent habits of the people of this district who, in moments of passion or in revenge, think but little of taking the lives of their fellow-creatures. I regret that, the proceedings have not been generally successful against the parties charged with murder. In one case, where two persons were deliberately murdered by the parties accompanying them whilst passing through some out-of-the-way jungle, there was not legal proof against the parties, although I had no doubt as to their guilt. One person was acquitted at the Sessions and two released by the Court of Nizamut Adawlut. In another, the prisoner was acquitted on the ground of insanity. In a third, there were strong suspicions against the brother of the murdered person, but there was nothing to warrant his commitment to the Sessions. It was supposed that he had leagued with his brother's wife, with whom he was said to have had an intimacy, to murder her husband. In a fourth, the prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment for one month. The offence was more a homicide by misadventure than any thing else. In another where a female was discovered in her house with her head nearly severed from her body, which must have been done by one blow and caused instantaneous death, four persons were committed on circumstantial evidence, not I think of a very probable nature, to the Sessions, where one was acquitted and three released by the Nizamut. In the whole, forty-four persons were discharged by the Joint Magistrate, three acquitted at the Sessions, and five by the Nizamut, two convicted at the Sessions, and one case with two prisoners was pending in that Court. In all the cases of wounding with intent to murder the parties had been convicted and sentenced to periods of imprisonment

varying from ten to fourteen years. One of the cases entered as homicide ought to have been struck out. In a second, the parties were committed for accidental homicide and were released. The affray and the assaults with wounding were of a very petty description and all disposed of by the Magistrate. In one charge of rape the party was convicted and in the others the accused were discharged. The remaining headings call for no particular notice.

324th. In the second class are dacoitee with wounding 3, dacoitee 16, highway robbery with wounding 1, highway robbery 11, attempt at highway robbery 3, attempt at burglary with wounding 1. There is a considerable increase in the crime of dacoitee as compared with the returns of the past year. The offence was then confined to four Thannahs, it has now extended over eight. There have been in Bishenpore 4 cases, in Potanah 6, in Ausgaon 2, in Seitlah 2, in O'krah 2, in Kotulpore 1, in Sonamooke 1, in Senpaharce 1. The increase may be partially accounted for by the failure of the crops in parts of the district, which in a poor country like this is sure to be followed by an increase in offences against property. In seven of the cases commitments were made and in all those some of the accused were convicted. Two cases were pending, and in the others the Police were not successful in tracing out the offenders or property. In the whole twenty persons were convicted to eleven acquitted at the Sessions. In four cases only of highway robbery were convictions secured. One case, yet pending, was the robbing of the banghy mail on the Trunk Road near Assansole. This must have been done by parties who had acquired a knowledge of two packages of gold, weighing 273 Sicca weight, having been sent by that banghy. The despatch of bullion by a solitary banghy holds out strong temptations to persons connected with the dispatchers or the Post Office, for the chances of punishment, if they take their measures well, are very small, and some measures should be adopted to prevent this being done. It is, I believe, a practice contrary to Rule 28 of the Post Office Rules. In the attempt at highway robbery, seven persons had been convicted at the Sessions.

325th. The third class is composed of burglary 421, theft 581, cattle-stealing 74, receiving stolen property 15, embezzlement 1, attempt at burglary 194, attempt at theft 68. Eighty-nine cases of burglary and 410 of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, and six of burglary and six of theft by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries fifty-one and in the thefts 178 persons were punished. Only two were convicted of receiving stolen property.

326th. Fourteen charges of arson make up the fourth class. In one case only the Magistrate punished five persons who set fire to a small hut used by a watchman in a mangoe grove.

327th. In the fifth class are forgery 2, counterfeiting coin 1. One charge of forgery was dismissed and the other was pending. The parties accused of coining were discharged.

328th. The sixth class is composed of perjury 11, neglect of duty by Zemindars 3, ditto by Ghatwals, Chowkeedars and Pykes 418, disobedience of orders 232, false

complaint 63, bad character 38, fraud 3, bribery 1, concealing crime 10, escape from custody 13, extortion 10, gambling 4, suits under Regulation VII of 1819, 4, vagrancy 2, incest 1. Twenty persons were convicted of being bad characters, 1,066 Ghatwals, &c had been punished for neglect of duty. These men as a class are useless and inefficient Officers, always in disputes about their Lands, and, I may say, never performing the duties for which they hold them.

329th. The Police Officers sent in 827 persons on their own responsibility and 1798 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 950 on bail and having six before them. The total number coming before the Police and the Courts was 3,393.

330th. One hundred and thirty-nine rupees had been paid in rewards during the year.

331st. The Ferry collections were rupees 385-6. The Chowkeydarree Assessment was Rupees 908-8-3, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 758.

332nd. One convict had escaped who was recaptured.

333rd. One Mohurrir and one Jemadar had been dismissed from the Police during the year.

334th. The securities of the Officers in charge of public funds had been revised and found sufficient.

335th. The Police Officers in this district are generally not good, but I think the Establishment of the subdivisions of Ghurbeta, Boodbood, and Mungulpore, has had a very good effect.

336th. The Thannahs have been managed as follows. Bancoorah, Amdah, Chatna and Seitlah, by the Joint Magistrate.

Bishenpore and Kotulpore, up to the 20th October, by Mr. Tucker, since then, by the Joint Magistrate.

Potenah, Ausgram, Sonamookhee and Senpaliaree, by Deputy Magistrate Moulavee Golaum Ashruff.

Okrah, Cherulia, Neamutpore, Ruggonathpore or Gourungdehee, by Mr. Deputy Magistrate Betts.

337th. Mr. George Loch conducted the duties of the district until the 11th October, when he made over charge to Mr. J. B. Mactuer, whom I found exerting himself most earnestly to acquire a knowledge of the people and the district. Mr. F. Tucker can do his duty well if he would be more attentive to it. Moulavie Gholam Ashruff is an excellent and active Officer, and I recommend his being vested with the full powers of a Magistrate. Mr. Betts evinced some precipitancy and want

of judgment in some of his decisions in the cases between the Rival Coal Companies, but he had a good local knowledge of his jurisdiction, and the natives generally spoke well of him.

BURDWAN.

	347	1848
Offences against the person,	651	646
Offences against property committed with violence, . ..	76	84
Offences against property committed without violence,	529	560
Malicious offences against property,	6	15
Forgery and offences against the currency,	0	4
Other offences not included in the above,	798	677

338th In the first class are murder 7, homicide 2, affray 2, assault with wounding 11, suttee 1, assault 620, causing death by giving drugs to procure abortion 2, attempt to murder 1 In only one charge of murder were the parties convicted, and in that, the Sessions Judge sentenced six prisoners to five years' imprisonment, which was subsequently mitigated by the Superior Court With regard to three of the offenders, females, to two years' imprisonment with labour, suited to their sex The information given to the Magistrate and the Police regarding the occurrence of some of the murders, was, I think, extremely improbable, but as parties were apprehended on suspicion, the cases are necessarily entered. In the homicides, the Magistrate discharged twelve, the Sessions Judge convicted four persons, and one case with two persons on bail was pending In this case, the first grade Darogah, Attur Allee, was charged with having ordered the slaying of a man said to have been discovered in the attempt to commit burglary, as the Darogah was going his round. The received opinion amongst the people was that the man of low caste was killed, because he had an intrigue with the Darogah's mistress. The case was referred to the Nizamut, the futwa convicting the Darogah of murder and the Sessions Judge being of opinion that he was guilty of homicide, and from that Court the Darogah has received a complete acquittal The affrays were of very minor importance and were disposed of by the Magistrate In the assaults with wounding, twelve persons were punished and sixteen discharged, in the suttee the parties were acquitted at the Sessions, and the principal witness against them committed and punished for perjury The victim was an old woman of eighty, a resident in the Boodbood subdivision Immediately on her husband's death, she with the corpse was carried by her relatives and others to the neighbourhood of Cutwa where the suttee took place. The Deputy Magistrate of Boodbood heard of her intention, and sent notice to the Deputy Magistrate of Cutwa. Mr Hewett was unfortunately absent on duty, and as the Police in that quarter had no notice of any death having occurred, the suttee took place without interruption. The results in the other headings are satisfactory The attempt to commit murder which was attended with theft, was pending

339th In the second class are dacoites with murder 1, dacoites with torture 1, dacoites with wounding 12, dacoites 47, highway robbery 4, attempt at dacoitee 19.

The offence most prevalent in this, and some of the adjacent districts, is dacoitee, and I am sorry to observe a very considerable falling off in the convictions for this offence. The results are, dacoitee with murder, no arrests, dacoitee with torture, one convicted, dacoitee with wounding, eleven acquitted, to three convicted at the Sessions, and one case with two prisoners pending, dacoitee twenty, acquitted to twelve convicted two cases with three prisoners pending, highway robbery, no convictions, one case pending, attempt at dacoitee, no convictions. The Magistrate has to contend against many obstacles, in the first place, the unwillingness of the injured parties to come forward from the uncertainty of procuring the punishment of the criminals and the fear of their vengeance if they get off, added to the inconvenience of attending on Darogah's, Magistrate's and the Sessions' Courts giving their evidence *three* times, and the almost total inefficiency of the village watch. These persons formerly had lands allotted to them for their support, and then they had an interest in common with the villagers in the repression of crime, since the introduction of the Putnee system the under-holders driven to get all they can, have deprived the Chowkeydars of their old Chakran Lands, and the Chowkeydars, if not actual dacoits themselves, as is the case in many instances, connive at, or are careless about the occurrence of such an offence. Our rules of evidence also tell much against the certainty of convictions. Discrepancies in the evidence of ignorant persons, recorded three times, are not sufficiently allowed for, and there is a strong feeling against admitting the recognition of articles, such as Lotas, Brass Plates, &c, such articles may not be easily distinguished by an European Judge, but they form the wealth of the middling and lower classes and we must not judge by our European opinions and habits, for I feel sure, that these persons who daily use these utensils can easily point out and distinguish their property. The best test is the mode in which such articles are recognised, and in that point the witnesses to the search of the house should be examined. I also beg respectfully to state, that the Nizamut lay great stress on the manner in which a clue has been obtained, which may lead to the finding of property in the houses of any party. Now a Darogah and a Magistrate constantly obtain information, where the parties giving it will not appear, and if they do divulge their source of information, they will have the greatest difficulty in ever again procuring intelligence, and yet I understand, this must be done, or no conviction is likely to follow. It may be a good rule to be sure that there is no foul play in the introduction of articles into the houses of accused parties, but a general rule like the one above stated, must, if rigidly enforced, be a great obstacle to procuring convictions.

340th In the third class are burglary 162, theft 303, cattle stealing 48, receiving stolen property 1, plundering 7, attempt at burglary 21, attempt at theft 18. In the burglaries twenty-three cases were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, and eleven by the orders of the Magistrate. Of the thefts 139 were taken up under the first, and thirty-nine under the second condition. In the burglaries only seven persons and in the thefts fifty-one were convicted, these results are not satisfactory.

341st The fifteen charges of arson forming the fourth class, were all dismissed by the Magistrate, and in the fifth are three cases of forgery and one of counterfeiting coin, two of the former were pending.

342nd The sixth class is composed of perjury 4, neglect of Police 77, neglect of Chowkeydars 136, neglect of Zemindars 13, neglect of jail officers 72, misdemeanour 295, notorious bad character 44, false complaint 33, gambling 2, bribery 1 In the cases of bad character forty-five persons were punished

343rd The Police sent in 250 persons on their own authority and 71 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 194 on bail, the total number coming before the Police and the Courts was 2,512

344th Eight hundred Rupees had been paid in small sums to Chowkeydars, Pharreedars and others, sixty-one in number, for the arrest of dacoits, burglars and thieves, as I am extremely anxious to encourage the people in repressing such offences

345th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 7,108-10-0 The Chowkeydarree Assessment was Rupees 3,674-14-6, and the cost of Establishment Rupees 3,568-7-8

346th Two Mohurrirs, a Jemadar and ten Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police during the year

347th The securities of Officers in charge of public money had been revised and pronounced sufficient.

348th As I have remarked above, the village Police in this district is very inefficient. I have endeavoured to encourage them in the performance of their duties by giving rewards whenever they have exerted themselves or resisted dacoits, and I have found some good effects from this plan The paid Police officers are not intelligent as a body, and it is difficult to get men who either know, or take an interest in, their duties.

349th Mr A Pigou was in charge of the district during the year I should wish him to move more about those parts of the country where dacoitees are prevalent.

MIDNAPORE.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	469	449
Offences against property committed with violence,	68	68
Offences against property committed without violence, ...	828	933
Malicious offences against property,	7	5
Forgery and offences against the currency,	8	5
Other offences not included in the above,	853	819

350th In the first class are murder 19, wounding with intent to murder 1, homicide 1, affray 21, assault with wounding 21, rape 4, assault 353, kidnapping 7, resistance of process 18, abortion 1, attempt at murder 2, attempt at homicide 1. In

the charges of murder forty persons had been discharged by the Magistrate, fifteen acquitted at the Sessions, and one by the Nizamut, two convicted at the Sessions, four by the Nizamut, and three cases with eleven prisoners in jail, three on bail, were pending. These are not good results, and the acquittals before the Sessions Court evince a deficiency of judgment in making the commitments. In one case where the prisoner murdered his wife, he was sentenced to imprisonment for life, and in another, in which a wife administered poison to her husband, that she might better carry on her intrigue with her paramour, she and her lover had been since transported for life. In a case which occurred in November, and which should have been entered as a riot with murder, the servants of Mr. McArthur had a dispute with the deceased and others, who refused to pay the rents demanded, and were by the orders of the chief of the party attacked, and two were wounded and the deceased was killed on the spot, having received a wound in his heart from a spear. Three of the parties have been sentenced to transportation for fourteen years, and six to seven years' imprisonment. The principal man was acquitted by the Nizamut, in consequence of the omission of his name in the preliminary proceedings through the collusion of the acting Darogah, indeed, had not the city Darogah been sent out, there would have been no satisfactory proof at all brought forward in the case. In the wounding with intent to murder the offender had died, and in the homicide, the Magistrate discharged seven and the Sessions Judge convicted one person. The affrays were disposed of by the Magistrate and in them 123 persons had been punished. Thirty-five were also convicted in the assaults with wounding. In one of the attempts at murder, which was the throwing her children into a well by their mother, the accused was convicted. In the other and in the attempt at homicide the parties were discharged. No convictions took place in the charges of rape, and in the minor offences the results are satisfactory.

351st. The second class is composed of dacoitee with wounding 13, dacoitee 33, river dacoitee 2, highway robbery with wounding 1, highway robbery 6, burglary with wounding 2, theft with murder of a child for its ornaments 1, attempt at dacoitee 9. The cases in this class are not so heinous in their nature in this as in the past year, but there is still the same want of success in them. The district of Midnapore is very extensive, and the South-Eastern and Western portions of it are too distant from the Sudder Station to admit of a proper control over the Police in these parts. There is a difficulty about locating a Deputy Magistrate owing to the general insalubrity of the climate. In the dacoitees with wounding 200 persons are said to have been concerned, forty-six persons were discharged by the Magistrate, ten acquitted and four convicted at the Sessions, and one case with seven persons on bail was pending. In the simple dacoitees 787 persons are entered as concerned, 153 were discharged by the Magistrate, twenty acquitted, and nineteen convicted at the Sessions, and three cases with seven prisoners in jail and fourteen parties on bail were pending. In the river dacoitees nine were acquitted, one person convicted at the Sessions and one case with ten prisoners in jail was pending. In the highway robbery with wounding all the parties were discharged. In the simple cases eight persons had been punished. In the burglaries with wounding, two persons had been punished by the Magistrate, and in the theft with murder of a child for its ornaments, the prisoner was convicted by the Nizamut.

352nd In the third class are burglaries 181, theft 387, cattle-stealing 62, plunder 92, embezzlement 3, attempt at burglary 171, attempt at theft 37 One hundred and twenty-four cases of burglary and 252 of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, twenty-one of burglary and twenty of theft by the orders of the Magistrate In the burglaries forty-two, and in the thefts 153 persons were punished In the charges of plunder 131 persons were convicted Three of the cases of arson in the fourth class were pending, and no convictions had taken place in the others

353rd In the fifth class are forgery 3, counterfeiting coin 2, and the sixth is made up of perjury 1, bad character 39, neglect of Police Pykes and Chowkeydars 412, bribery and extortion 28, concealing crime 13, illegal assemblage 21, breaking attachment 2, disobedience of orders 102, breach of jail discipline 4, harbouring defendants 2, false complaint 20, case under Regulation VII of 1819, 1, neglect by Zemindars 6, abduction 3, using unclaimed property 6, absconding from service 5, contempt of Court 154 One person had been convicted in the charge of perjury, and forty-five were punished to forty-nine discharged in the cases of bad character.

354th The Police sent in 925 persons on their responsibility and 1,251 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 420 on bail, and having fifteen before them. The total number of persons coming before the Police and Courts was 4,035

355th Two hundred and eighty-three rupees had been paid in small sums to different persons during the year, for the arrest of offenders

356th The Ferry Collections were Rupees 5,390-4-3 The Chowkeydarree Assessment was Rupees 2,871-0-9, and the cost of Establishment was Rupees 2,640

357th One convict had escaped

358th One Darogah, two Mohurrirs and seven Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police during the year, principally for neglect of duty

359th The securities of Officers in charge of public funds had been revised and found sufficient.

360th Mr W B Buckle was officiating as Magistrate from the 28th February to the 13th December, when he was relieved by Mr V H Schalch. Mr Buckle, although anxious to perform his duties, was certainly not competent for the charge of such an extensive and important district. Mr Tucker was Joint Magistrate at Ghur Bettah, and Mr A E. Russell, Assistant with special powers until the commencement of October Mr Tucker can do his work well if he pleases. Mr. A. E. Russell has proved himself a competent and efficient Officer Mr G Bright joined as Assistant at the close of the year The Magistrate reports that he has every reason to be satisfied with the mode in which Nairindra Krishna, Deputy Magistrate, has performed his duties.

HOOGHLY.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	1,046	1,344
Offences against property committed with violence,	76	103
Offences against property committed without violence,	396	434
Malicious offences against property,..	14	13
Forgery and offences against the currency,..... . .	5	7
Other offences not included in the above,	1,237	1,585

361st. In the first class are murder 16, wounding with intent to murder 4, homicide 12, child-stealing 1, affray 14, assault with wounding 26, rape 3, assault 1,266, causing abortion 2. In nine of the cases of murder, the Police could not procure sufficient evidence to warrant the commitment of the suspected parties to the Sessions, and in one the prisoner was convicted of culpable homicide. One of the cases was the murder of a child for its ornaments and should have been entered under head 20. The value of the ornaments which induced the murderer to commit the act was only two rupees. There was strong suspicion against a man who had been seen with the child, but the legal proof was deficient. In another, a man who had murdered his wife in a fit of phrensy committed suicide. Five cases were pending with twenty-one persons in jail and three on bail. In the cases of wounding with intent to murder, the Magistrate discharged one person, and two were convicted on reference to the Nizamut. Two cases with three prisoners in jail were pending. In six of the homicides, in two of which the death was not the consequence of the alleged assault, eighteen persons had been discharged, in the remainder, three had been acquitted and nine convicted at the Sessions, one case was pending and one prisoner had died. The case of child-stealing was pending at the Sessions. The affrays were disposed of by the Magistrate, and in them seventy-five persons had been punished and thirty-four were in the charges of assault with wounding. One charge of rape was carried through the Court, and in that the party was discharged. In the assaults the results are satisfactory.

362nd. I regret much to observe so large an encrease in the second class of offences, but so long as our present system of village watch is continued, it will be found to be almost impracticable to check dacoitee in particular districts, of which Hooghly is one. In every gang there will be found one or more Chowkeydars, and the difficulty of procuring convictions excepting the dacoits are arrested at the time, or property easily recognizable, (which of course they are not likely to keep with them,) is found on them or in their houses, must encourage the gangs in the commission of this class of offences. The cowardice of the people is also another cause of the encrease. If the villagers would assemble and oppose the dacoits, they could prevent the occurrence of a dacoitee, if not arrest the criminals, but it is hardly ever known that they follow the dacoits and the cases in which resistance is made are but few. The class is composed of dacoitees with wounding 9, dacoitee 63, highway robbery with murder 1, highway robbery 5, burglary with wounding 3, affray with homicide 1, attempt at dacoitee 21. In the dacoitees with wounding two persons had been convicted at the Sessions, and one case with sixteen prisoners was pending. In the simple offences nineteen persons had been acquitted at the Sessions and four cases with eighteen

prisoners were under trial In the highway robbery with murder the Sessions Judge acquitted the party made over to the Sessions One witness swore to having seen the prisoner commit the crime This he denied, but admitted that he had come suddenly on two other parties named by him when they had just perpetrated the crime, that these two induced him by threats to conceal the fact giving him some trifling articles of property How he came to be released, I do not understand, for by his own confession he was an accessory after the fact In the highway robberies the Sessions Judge acquitted three prisoners The affray with homicide was the one which the adherents of Rajah Rada Kaunth Deb and Ram Ruttun Roy on one side, and the retainers of Bykauntnath Moonshee on the other, committed near the Ballee Khal, reported on in my letters, Nos 1665, 1837 and 239 of the 24th of July 1848, 15th August of the same year, and 3rd February last.

363rd In the third class are burglary 135, theft 176, cattle-stealing 12, receiving stolen property 6, plundering 42, attempt at burglary 35, attempt at theft 28 Fifty-eight of burglary and 111 of theft were taken up at the request of the parties robbed, five of the former and eight of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate Ten persons only were convicted in the burglaries, and sixty-five in the thefts No persons were punished for receiving stolen property In the cases of plundering, fifteen persons were punished

364th Thirteen cases of arson constitute the fourth class, nine of the cases were carried through the Courts, in which fourteen persons were discharged and one case was pending Six cases of forgery and one of counterfeiting coin are in the fifth class, in the first, three parties had been convicted at the Sessions and one case with six prisoners was pending

365th In the sixth class are perjury 3, bad character 92, neglect by Polico and Chowkeydars 359, misdemeanour 917, neglect by Zemindars 48, false complaint 33, escape from custody 4, extortion 2, concealing offences 20, gambling 4, illegal assemblage 5, contumacy 91, instigating a false complaint 1, cheating 1, committing unnatural crime 1, abduction 4 In the charges of bad character seventy-four persons had been punished

366th The Police sent in 546 persons on their own authority and 757 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 288 on bail The total number coming before the Police and Courts was 3,962

367th Two hundred and forty-eight Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year

368th. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 7,966-15-5 The Chowkeydarree Assessment was Rupees 5,587-10-7½, and the cost of Establishment Rupees 5,317-8-9.

369th One convict escaped from jail and was re-apprehended on the same day

370th Two Darogahs, one Mohurrir and two Jemadars had been removed from the Police. One of the Darogahs for maliciously searching the houses of respectable persons.

371st The Securities of the Officers in charge of the Public Funds had been revised and reported sufficient

372nd. Mr Wauchope was in charge of the district until the 9th of October, when he was relieved by Mr W G Young, who until that time exercised the powers of Joint Magistrate in the subdivision of Serampore Mr A E Russell assumed charge of that subdivision on the 28th of October All these Officers are efficient and take a great interest in their duties.

373rd Baboo Issur Chunder Ghosal was in charge of the subdivision of Jehanabad (from the 12th July with full powers) He is an active Officer, desirous of performing his duty, but occasionally too hasty

374th Moulavie Wahudeen Nubbee succeeded the late Mr Richardson as Deputy Magistrate at the Sudder Station on the 20th May, and is highly reported on by his superiors

H O W R A H.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	1013	957
Offences against property committed with violence,	26	31
Offences against property committed without violence,	340	327
Malicious offences against property,	6	8
Forgery and offences against the currency,	1	0
Other offences not included in the above,	306	253

375th. In the first class are murder 6, affray 1, assault with wounding 1, rape 1, assault 948 Only three of the cases of murder came before the Court, and in one of these the prisoner was discharged, being insane, and in two, which were cases of homicide, five prisoners had been convicted and sentenced for that offence One of the cases, in which the offenders could not be traced, was the murder of the Gomashta of a village, the rauts of which were all in his debt, and disliked him much They had all leagued together, and tried to make it appear that he had been murdered by two village Pykes, whom he had turned off, and it was impracticable to come at the real facts of the case The affray was disposed of by the Magistrate In the charge of rape three persons were acquitted at the Sessions, and in the assaults the returns are satisfactory

376th. There is an increase in the second class, and I am sorry to observe in this district the same want of success in these cases as appears in the returns of the adjacent jurisdictions. It consists of dacoitee with wounding 8, dacoitee 13, river dacoitee 1, highway robbery with wounding 2, highway robbery 1, attempt at dacoitee 6 In the dacoitees with wounding 124 persons are entered as concerned, only four cases came into the Court, and in these the Magistrate discharged eight

persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted eleven, and convicted five, and one case with two prisoners was under trial. In the dacoitees 175 persons are entered as concerned, six cases were brought to trial, in these the Magistrate discharged nine persons, the Sessions Judge acquitted six and convicted four, and two cases with sixteen prisoners were pending. In the river dacoitee one person was punished, whilst in the highway robberies and attempts to commit dacoitee no convictions ensued.

377th In the third class are burglary 114, theft 176, cattle-stealing 15, attempt at burglary 9, attempt at theft 11, plunder 2. Eighteen cases of burglary and 103 of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed. Fifteen of the former and thirty-six of the latter were taken up by orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries twelve persons, and in the thefts 113 had been punished.

378th Eight charges of arson constitute the fourth class, and in these two persons had been convicted at the Sessions, and the fifth class is blank.

379th In the sixth are neglect of duty by Police 51, neglect by Chowkeydars 132, contempt of Court 11, false complaint 3, desertion from service 10, bad character 21, extortion 3, dangerously overloading boats 42, bribery 1, gambling 2, abduction 7. In the charges of bad character twenty-five persons had been punished to twenty-nine released.

380th The Police sent in 164 persons on their own responsibility and ninety-one by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing 141 on bail. The total number coming before the Police and Courts was 1,751.

381st Five hundred and forty-five Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year.

382nd The Ferry Collections were Rupees 4,009-0-3. The Chowkeydarree Assessment was Rupees 10,689-4-3, and the cost of Establishment Rupees 8,584-15-11.

383rd Three Burkundaues had been removed from the Police.

384th The Securities of the Officers in charge of public money had been revised and reported sufficient.

385th Mr E. Jenkins was in charge of the district, with the exception of a short period, when Mr A. E. Russell officiated for him. Mr Jenkins is a very hard-working and pains-taking Officer, and it is much to his credit that, since he has been nominated to an office in Bengal, he has made himself complete master of the vernacular language of the country.

TWENTY-FOUR PERGUNNAHS.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	3646	3518
Offences against property committed with violence, .	20	24
Offences against property committed without violence, .	515	475
Malignant offences against property,	1	0
Forgery and offences against the currency,	5	2
Other offences not included in the above,	464	399

386th In the first class are murder 4, wounding with intent to murder 4, homicide 3, child-stealing 1, assault 3,273, oppression 254, petty affray 6, resistance of process 2, abuse 1. One of the cases of murder was by an insane person who is now in confinement in the hospital. In one, the perpetrators have not been discovered. The murdered man was an old coolie who had saved a small sum of money and it was supposed that he must have been murdered for the sake of that, if so, the murderers were disappointed, for the money was found under his bed. In the two other cases the parties were convicted. In one of the cases of wounding with intent to murder, the party has eluded pursuit, in one conviction ensued, in a third the prisoner was acquitted, and the fourth was pending before the Sessions. Two of the cases of homicide are of a doubtful nature, and it is still more doubtful if they occurred within the district. In both, the deceased persons are said to have died from blows received on board wood-cutters' boats in the Sunderbunds. In a third, the man who beat his paramour so as to cause death had absconded. In the fourth, the acquittal of the accused at the Sessions is deserving of notice. The *Futwa* declares that "no proof according to the *Shara* was adduced."

387th The deceased was driving one of a set of laden hackeries towards Dum-Dum, when the party was overtaken by some *Dâk* runners, one of whom struck the deceased and either knocked him from off the hackery or forced him to step down, the wheel passed over and killed him. His companions proved this, but could not identify the *Dâk* runner who struck the blow. This deficiency in the evidence was supplied by the other *Dâk* runners, who gave a clear and circumstantial account of the affair. This may not be evidence according to the *Shara*, but if such is the case, the sooner we get rid of such an absurd code the better. In the child-stealing or rather the abduction of a child, the Magistrate punished the offender. In the remaining headings the results are satisfactory.

388th. The increase in dacoitee is much to be regretted, but it certainly does not arise from any want of efforts to detect the offenders nor from want of success on the part of the Police, still it has increased nearly one-third as compared with the preceding year, and by one-half as compared with 1846. The class consists of dacoitee with murder 1, dacoitee with wounding 1, dacoitee 18, burglary with wounding 1, theft with wounding 2, attempt at theft with wounding 1. In the dacoitee with murder which was that in the dwelling of the Salt Darogah at Narainpore, attended with his murder and the burning of his house, the crime, was, I think, clearly the result of revenge, and the instigators were the Peshkar of the Darogah and a salt *Gomashta*. The additional Sessions Judge recommended both of them, with nearly all the dacoits

arrested, for punishment to the Nizamut, but I regret to say, that the Peshkar and Gomashita were released, although their instruments were punished. I do not mean to impugn the judgment of the Court, but I feel so strongly that they were the instigators of the crime, that I cannot but regret that through any defect in the evidence, the Superior Court should have found it necessary to release them, the proceedings in this case are deserving of some notice. The Police and the Magistrate completed their portion of them in eighteen days. The case was under trial before the Sessions during *six weeks*, and when referred to the Nizamut Adawlut it was kept pending there for *four months*. The perpetrators in half of the remaining dacoitees were discovered and in six cases convictions occurred. In one of those where the committed persons were acquitted at the Sessions the result with reference to the proceedings in the Magistrate's Court, appears somewhat extraordinary. The prosecutor was robbed of ready money and ornaments and two bales of new cloth, at first he tried to conceal the dacoitee and would not give in a list of the property, but at last he was persuaded by the Darogah to do so, and stated that amongst the dacoits he had recognised one Sonatun Gazeer of the same village. This man confessed and named some of his accomplices, some were not known to him by name, and almost all were residents of the Bariasut district. Sonatun and six of his accomplices made most circumstantial and natural confessions before the Magistrate. Five of them produced from different places of concealment their share of the plundered cloths *all new*, which the prosecutor recognised as bearing his initial, and these cloths were all of the same kind. The prisoners acknowledged these to be portions of the plundered property, *they were all acquitted*. The property produced by two of them and found in the possession of a third, was ordered to be given to the prosecutor. The remainder was restored to the prisoners, who produced it as plundered property. In all the cases eighty-five persons were discharged, thirty-five acquitted at the Sessions, twelve convicted there, and three cases with twenty-two prisoners were under trial.

389th. The third is composed of burglary 107, theft 309, cattle-stealing 36, receiving stolen property 5, attempt at burglary 10, attempt at theft 8. Fifty-five burglaries and three hundred thefts were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, two of the former and three of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. Twenty-five had been convicted of burglary and 255 of theft and cattle-stealing, eleven had also been punished for receiving stolen property.

390th. The fourth class is blank, and in the fifth are forgery 1, attempt to give effect to a forged paper 1.

391st. The sixth is composed of perjury 1, disobedience of orders 52, bad character 26, false complaint 71, fraud 19, contempt of Court 17, neglect of duty 34, neglect by Chowkeydars 101, abduction of females 49, illegal assemblage 9, breach of contract 7, collusion 2, entering house with evil intent 5, escape 3, bribery 1, extortion 1, attempt to seduce Sepahees from their allegiance 1. In the charges of bad character twenty-five persons had been punished.

392nd. The Police sent in 821 persons on their own authority and 212 by orders of the Magistrate, releasing 458 on bail and having 6 before them. The total number coming before the Police and Courts was 4,446.

393rd. Seven hundred and forty Rupees had been paid in rewards during the year, including 385 paid to Police and others for the arrest and information leading to the arrest of the persons engaged in the Narainpoor dacoitee.

394th. The Ferry Collections were Rupees 6,968-7-0. The Chowkeydarree Assessment was Rupees 1,849-2-0, and the cost of the Establishment Rupees 1,824.

395th. Two convicts had broken jail and had been re-apprehended.

396th. One Mohurrir, two Jemadars and four Burkundauzes had been removed from the Police.

397th. The Securities of the Officers in charge of public money had been revised and reported sufficient.

398th Mr. Mytton was Magistrate during the year, with the exception of twenty-one days, when he was absent on sick leave. Mr Mytton continued to exercise the same vigilance and control which have so frequently called for my approbation. Mr Mytton speaks highly of his assistant, with the powers of joint Magistrate, Mr. C. Belli, and of the manner in which he has conducted his duties.

BARRASUT.

	1847	1848
Offences against the person,	791	613
Offences against property committed with violence,	10	18
Offences against property committed without violence, .. .	317	319
Malicious offences against property,	0	0
Forgery and offences against the currency,	1	1
Other offences not included in the above,	104	143

399th. In the first class are murder 5, homicide 1, assault with wounding 19, assault 546, oppression 38, riotous attack 4. One of the murders was committed in the town of Barrasut and was that of a prostitute, no doubt for the sake of the jewels, ornaments and money which she possessed. Her favourite, a young brahmin was arrested on suspicion, but he stated that on going as usual to remain with her, he found the door closed, and she herself shortly coming up with a quantity of sweetmeats, told him that he could not remain with her that night, as there was another person within, and on her opening the door, he saw another party whom he named, and he then went away and slept at another place. This story was corroborated by the sweetmeat seller, and the person at whose house he had slept. The other party was then sought for, and he came in and declared, that on the night in question he slept at his own house, (he was a servant who had taken leave the day previous to the occurrence) and that his neighbours could prove that. Some of his neighbours did so, but all the rest of the story which he told was false; however, as no property was found on him, or traced to him, and as he had been seen only by one person with the deceased, and not going to or coming from the house, the Joint Magistrate did not think there

were sufficient grounds to commit him, although he had no doubt as to the crime having been perpetrated by him. In one case, no trace could be found of the murderer, nor could any reason be discovered why any one should have attacked the deceased. Another murder was the act of some European Soldiers, who entered a village adjacent to Dum-Dum and demanded money and liquor from some vendors of spirits, on these being refused, they wounded the people in the shop with their bayonets and helped themselves. One of the parties subsequently died in hospital, but no one could identify the Soldiers. In a fourth case, the principal escaped, but others had been punished, as accessories after the fact, since the close of the year, and sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment in banishment. In the fifth, the party had been sentenced to imprisonment for one year. In the homicide, the party was acquitted. In the assaults with wounding, forty-one persons had been punished, and in the other headings the results are satisfactory.

400th. There appears a considerable increase in the second class, but I am more inclined to attribute that to more cases having been brought to the notice of the Police, than to a greater number of crimes having been perpetrated. The class is composed of dacoitee with murder 1, dacoitee 15, highway robbery 2. In the dacoitee with murder the Darogah sent in thirteen persons, and the Magistrate made over eleven to the Sessions. The proofs against these were their own confessions before the Darogah and the Joint Magistrate, and the discovery in their houses of part of the stolen property, which they admitted they had received as their share of the proceeds of the dacoitee. The commitment was made in September, but no jail delivery was held until January of this year, when Mr Bentall acquitted all the parties, on what grounds I hardly know, but have been informed that it was owing to some discrepancies in the dates of arrest, confession and search before the Darogah. In only one case of simple dacoitee were any parties made over to the Sessions, and out of six committed, five had been acquitted and one sentenced to imprisonment for seven years. One of the highway robberies occurred at the close of the year, but no parties had been prosecuted to conviction in either of them.

401st. In the third class are burglary 147, theft 18, cattle-stealing 14, plunder 86, attempt at burglary 53, attempt at theft 1. Nineteen cases of burglary and twenty-six of theft were enquired into at the request of the parties robbed, two of the former and three of the latter by the orders of the Magistrate. In the burglaries nine, and in the thefts thirty persons had been punished. Only thirteen of the cases of plunder were carried through the Courts.

402nd. The fourth class is blank and in the fifth is one case of forgery in which the parties were discharged.

403rd. The sixth class is composed of bad character 19, fraud 3, neglect of duty 101, disobedience of orders 4, illegal assemblage 5, concealment of crime 1, escape from jail 1, abduction 6, false complaint 2. In the charges of bad character seven persons were punished.

404th. The Police sent 243 persons on their own responsibility and 147 by the orders of the Magistrate, releasing seventy-seven on bail.

405th. One convict had escaped from Jail and been re-taken.

406th. No rewards had been paid during the year.

407th. There are no Ferry Collections in this district and there is no Chowkey-darree Assessment.

408th. Two Burkundauzes had been dismissed from the Police.

409th. The Securities of Officers in charge of public money had been revised and reported sufficient.

410th. Mr. C. B. Trevor was in charge of the district until the 18th of November, when he was relieved by Mr. E. Jackson.

GENERAL REMARKS

411th. The increase in the dacoitees within the districts in the vicinity of Calcutta, and the great want of success in convicting the offenders, will, I am sure, attract the attention of the Honorable the Deputy Governor of Bengal. I attribute this, first to the great disorganization of the village watch in those districts, particularly in Burdwan and parts of Hooghly, secondly, to the difficulty of procuring convictions by the recognition of common articles of property in daily use amongst the people, and thirdly, in those districts in which the additional Sessions Judge, Mr. Bentall, has to try the cases, to his extreme timidity in the reception of evidence, his impression that the Police in dacoitee cases almost invariably arrest and bring up the wrong parties, and to his want of experience in criminal matters, which together lead to the acquittal of numerous offenders

412th With regard to the first, I beg to refer to para. 877 and the following paragraphs of my report for the first six months of 1840 I can only say, that since then, the condition of the village watch, that portion of our Police which comes into immediate contact with the people, has been much deteriorated. It has no interest in common with our regular Police, and is dependent not on the Government for support, but on what the members of it can extort from the people or procure by conniving at crime. That the post of a watchman is lucrative and coveted by particular classes of people, is made evident by the petitions for restoration to office given in to me by Chowkeydars dismissed for misconduct, and the post can be so only from improper and concealed sources. In that part of Burdwan, comprising the Zemindarree of the Rajah, the Government has it, I think, in its power to remedy the evil summarily. The Rajah of Burdwan had, at the time of the permanent settlement, a remission of 50,000 Rupees *per annum* granted to him on his suddur jumma, to enable him to provide for the protection of the district. That this was not military protection is proved from the fact, that when the Burdwan Provincial Battalion was raised, which took the place of the guards up to that time provided by the Rajah, it was proposed, but decided not to resume this remission, which was for Police protection. Enquiry will establish that all the Chowkeydars on the Rajah's estate continued in possession of their Chakran Lands, which were not resumed by him, in consequence of this remission. As the Putnee, Dur-Putnee and Se-Putnee system has extended, the different holders driven to exact all they can from the rauts and the land, have ejected the Chowkeydars in the great majority of instances from these lands, and attached them to the malgozaree lands under Section 41, Regulation VIII. of 1793. In these cases, perhaps, the law of limitation might have been pleaded in a civil court, but the occupants were too poor and insignificant to have recourse to the courts for redress. Now, if the Rajah of Burdwan, in his arrangements for the better realization of his rental, has placed himself in such a position that he cannot prevent his tenants from ejecting these Chowkeydars, and also has deprived himself of all power to perform the duty for which the remission was given to him, I think the Government is bound, in justice to the people, to insist on the payment of the money, and to apply it on those purposes for which it was originally given to this wealthy Zemindar.

See para 879, of my Report for the first six months of 1840

413th. In my remarks regarding Burdwan, I incidentally mentioned the feeling against the admission of the recognition by prosecutors of articles of common use amongst the natives, such as brass plates, lotahs, and silver ornaments, which, in most parts of the country, are of similar patterns. Now such articles form the wealth of the middling and lower classes, they are in daily use or wear with them, and I think in a common sense view of the case, persons must be supposed capable of recognizing property which they have had in daily use, although there may be no very distinctive marks on it. I could recognize my hat, coat, gloves, shoes, spoons, &c., which I see daily, from amongst other articles of the same kind, and an Asiatic Judge might, from his not using such articles, feel surprised at my doing so, but if he considered and took a common sense view of the subject, he would find that there were many articles which he could as easily recognize, at which the surprise of the European witness would be equally excited, and he would not reject such recognition *in toto*, because he, the judge, considered such property, which seldom came under his notice, so difficult of recognition as to be almost impossible, but would receive it, using due caution in doing so, and giving proper consideration to objections against it and the manner in which it was at first recognized and claimed. I can give an instance of the ease and rapidity with which such property is recognizable. As I was walking one of the stages between Burdwan and Beerbhoom during my last tour, my sirdar bearer followed me. I observed him stop, first look at and then pick up from the road side and examine a common cocoanut hookah, which he carried on with him. I asked him, "what do you use hookahs, which you pick up by the road side?" His reply was, "no, it is mine, and it must have dropped out of the banghy basket which has gone on," and sure enough such was the case. I asked him over and over again how he recognized the hookah, and the answer always was, "oh, it is in constant use by me and my brethren, and of course I recognized it." To my eyes it was not in the least different from any common hookah of the same kind which had been for some time in use.

414th I also think that frequently discrepancies in evidence, not material to the case, and not affecting the general credibility of the witnesses, are considered too much. I give an instance of some discrepancies in the statements made by a Darogah before the Magistrate and the Sessions Judge, on which too much stress was laid in my opinion, and the consequence was the acquittal of the prisoners, who were seized by the Police immediately after the dacoits, close to the house with the property.

Statement before the Magistrate

I went near the prosecutor's house, and saw the dacoits making off, and therefore attacked them.

When I saw the dacoits I attacked them.

When I seized the prisoner, a box and some brass vessels fell from his left hand.

Statement before the Judge

I went to the prosecutor's house and heard from the people about, that the dacoits had made off, I then pursued and attacked them.

I searched for the dacoits and then attacked them.

I seized the prisoner with some brass vessels in his left hand, and a box under his left armpit.

415th. With regard to Mr. Bentall, I must remark, that I consider him amongst the most honorable and conscientious servants of the Government, but that cannot blind me to his defects as a Criminal Judge. He feels so painfully the responsibility of his situation with regard to the accused parties before him, that he cannot sufficiently balance the evidence, and rejects proof, which a Judge of stronger nerve and greater experience of native habits and manners would not hesitate to admit. In my last Report I remarked on some decisions of his, in which the accused were released, and I understand that Mr. W. H. Elliott, then Superintendent of Legal Affairs, who was directed to enquire into the matter, reported unfavorably of the decisions, and I must observe that the improved return of convictions from Jessore in dacoitee cases is owing to the greater magisterial experience and nerve of the present Judge, not to the superior abilities of the Magistrate, for a better Magistrate than Mr. Seton Karr, Jessore never had.

416th. His Honor is aware, that in cases where the Additional Sessions Judge cannot hold a Jail delivery within three months after the commitment of the parties, the prisoners are tried by the district Sessions Judge. This has been frequently the practice in the districts of Hooghly, Burdwan and Nuddeah, and I annex the returns marked Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, which will show the different proportions between acquittals and convictions in cases tried by Mr. Bentall, and those which came before the district Judges. It must be borne in mind, that the commitments have, in both instances, been made frequently by the same Magistrate, the difference being in the Judges finally disposing of them.

417th. I am certain, that if our system of repeated record of the same evidence was simplified, much good would arise, and much valuable time, now thrown away, be saved, to be employed more usefully. I think that if the Magistrates, as is the case in the Non-regulation Provinces, had the power to send up to the superior Court cases of simple dacoitee, with a recommendation of imprisonment not exceeding seven years, and the Judge was to decide on those proceedings after carefully perusing them, and returning them, if necessary, for further enquiry, there would be a considerable check put to the increase of this offence, and at any rate, I think, that in all cases, the Sessions Judge ought himself to note down the proceedings which should form the record of the case in his Court. Under the present system, I have known protracted examinations continued by Law Officers and Native Amilahs, not for the purpose of eliciting truth, but for that of procuring contradictions in the evidence, on which an acquittal might be based.

W DAMPIER,

Superintendent of Police, L. P.

Garden Reach, the 14th September, 1849

No. 1.

STATEMENT shewing the number of Persons acquitted and convicted in each case of Dacontee, tried by the Additional Sessions Judge and Sessions Judge of the District, from 1st May 1847 to 1st July 1849

By whom Committed	Date of Commitment.	No of the Case	No. of Prisoners in each Case	By the District Sessions Judge		By the Additional Sessions Judge		REMARKS.
				Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	
By the Magistrate and Officiating Magistrate of Hooghly	31st May, 1847,	61	5	0	0	0	5	
	26th July, „	118	1	0	1	0	0	
	26th Ditto, „	119	1	1	0	0	0	
	31st August, „	167	6	1	2	0	0	
	30th Oct, „	222	3	0	0	1	2	
	29th Nov, „	230	1	0	0	0	1	
	24th Dec, „	267	1	0	0	0	1	
	31st March, 1848,	49	2	0	0	0	2	
	30th June, „	87	2	2	0	0	0	
	3rd Nov, „	252	6	5	1	0	0	
	7th March, 1849,	19	2	2	0	0	0	
	9th Ditto, „	23	10	8	2	0	0	
	16th Ditto, „	27	8	8	0	0	0	
	29th Ditto, „	33	3*	0	0	0	0	* This case is still pending.
	23rd April, „	20	6	4	2	0	0	
	28th June, „	70	3*	0	0	0	0	* Ditto ditto
Total,		16	60	34	8	1	11	
By the Joint Magistrate of Serampore	4th May, 1847.,	52	5	0	0	0	5	
	7th June, „	71	4	0	0	0	4	
	26th April, 1848.,	87	8	0	0	0	8	
	12th May, „	111	4	0	0	0	4	
	27th June, „	140	6	0	0	0	6	
	29th Dec., „	215	16	0	0	2	13	One died before trial
	23rd March, 1849,	25	4	1	3	0	0	
	31st Ditto, „	26	4	0	0	0	0	Pending still
	15th May, „	61	14	8	5	0	0	One remaining to be tried.
	27th June, „	75	1	0	0	0	0	Pending still
Total,.....	.. . . .	10	66	9	8	2	40	
Grand Total, . . .	.. . . .	26	126	43	16	3	51	

(Signed) W. G YOUNG, *Offy Magistrate*
W. DAMPIER,
Superintendent of Police, I. P.

No. 2.

STATEMENT shewing the number of Cases and Persons committed, acquitted and convicted, from 1st May 1847 to 1st July 1849

MONTH 1847	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons committed.	SESSIONS JUDGE				ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE				REMARKS
			Cases.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Pending	Cases.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Pending	
May,	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	One died
"	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
"	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	
"	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
"	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
"	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	
June,	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	
"	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
"	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
July,	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	
"	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	
"	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	
"	1	8	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	
"	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
August,	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
"	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
September,	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
October,	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
"	1	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	
November,	1	7	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
December,	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	
"	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
Total,	22	58	8	22	4	0	14	12	19	0	

No 2 (Continued.)

MONTH. 1848	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons Committed	SESSIONS JUDGE				ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE.				REMARKS.
			Cases	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Pending	Cases.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Pending	
February,	1	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	
„ ..	1	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0	
„	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	
March,	1	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	
„	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
„	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
April,	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
„	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
„	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
„	1	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	
„	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	
„	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
„	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
May,	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	
June,	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	
„	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
„	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	
August,	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
„	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
„	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
September, .	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
„	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
October, . .	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
December, .	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
„ ...	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
„ ..	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Total,...	26	53	13	7	14	0	13	9	23	0	

No 2 (Continued)

Month 1849	Number of Cases	Number of Persons Committed.	SESSIONS JUDGE				ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE				REMARKS
			Cases.	Convicted	Acquitted	Pending	Cases	Convicted	Acquitted	Pending	
January,	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
February,	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	
March,	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
”	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	
”	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	
April,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
May,	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
June,	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total,	6	6	1	0	0	1	5	2	3	0	
Grand Total,	54	117	22	29	18	1	32	23	45	0	One died

NOTE

	By the Sessions Judge	By the Additional Sessions Judge
Convicted,	29	23
Acquitted,	18	45
Died,	0	1
Pending,	1	0
Total,	48	69

(Signed) A PIGOU, Magistrate

ZILLAH EAST BURDWAN,
FOUZDARY ADWLUT,
The 30th July, 1849

W DAMPIER,
Superintendent of Police, L P

No. 3.

STATEMENT shewing the number of Cases of Dacoitee, with the number of Persons concerned, Committed to the Sessions, and the number of Persons Acquitted and Convicted in each Case on each trial, by the Additional Sessions Judge of Zillah Nuddeah, from 1st May 1847 to 1st July 1849

CHARGE AND DATE OF COMMITMENT	Number of the Cases of Dacoitee Committed for trial	Number of Persons Committed for trial in each Case.	Number of Prisoners Convicted in each Case on each trial	Number of Persons Acquitted in each Case on each trial.
Dacoitee, 17th May 1847,	1	1	0	1
Ditto, 21st April ditto,	1	1	0	1
Ditto, 21st June ditto,	1	8	2	6
Ditto, attended with wounding, 22nd May ditto,	1	2	2	0
Dacoitee, 2nd July ditto,	1	8	0	8
Ditto, 16th June ditto,	1	9	0	9
Ditto, attended with wounding, 28th September ditto,	1	11	0	11
Ditto 30th December ditto,	1	4	0	4
Dacoitee, 15th ditto ditto,	1	5	2	3
Ditto, attended with wounding, 21st ditto ditto,	1	1	0	1
Dacoitee, 23rd February 1848,	1	2	0	2
Ditto, 21st ditto ditto,	1	1	0	1
Ditto, 28th ditto ditto,	1	4	0	4
Ditto, attended with torture, 18th March ditto,	1	3	0	3
Ditto, attended with wounding, 27th May ditto,	1	6	0	6
Dacoitee, 11th June ditto,	1	2	0	2
Ditto, 28th April ditto,	1	4	0	4
Ditto, 24th June ditto,	1	7	0	7

CHARGE AND DATE OF COMMITMENT	Number of the Cases of Dacoitee Committed for trial.	Number of Persons Committed for trial in each Case.	Number of Prisoners Convicted in each Case on each trial.	Number of Persons Acquitted in each Case on each trial.
Dacoitee, 18th September 1848,	1	1	0	1
Ditto, 28th July ditto, . .	1	8	8	0
Ditto, 7th April ditto,	1	5	0	5
Ditto, 10th ditto ditto, .	1	3	0	3
Ditto, 20th ditto ditto,	1	1	1	0
Ditto, 23rd July ditto,	1	5	4	1
Ditto, 1st May ditto,	1	2	0	2
Ditto, 31st March 1849,	1	7	0	7
Ditto, 26th February ditto, ..	1	5	0	5
Ditto, 25th April ditto, .	1	2	2	0
Ditto, 27th ditto ditto,	1	2	0	2
Ditto, 20th March ditto,	1	6	0	6
Ditto, 12th April ditto,	1	6	0	6
Ditto, 17th ditto ditto, ..	1	7	0	7
Ditto, 5th ditto ditto,	1	6	0	6
Ditto, 3rd ditto ditto,	1	8	0	8
Ditto, 12th May ditto,	1	8	0	8
Ditto, 13th April ditto,	1	3	0	3
Ditto, 15th May ditto,	1	8	0	8
Total,	37	172	21	151

ZILLAH NUDDER, FOUZDARY ADAWLUT,
The 3rd August 1849

(Signed) C F MONTRESOR, *Offg Magistrate*
W. DAMPIER,
Superintendent of Police, L. P

